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Sudan leaders hold talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's joint presidency and representatives of 32 political parties held marathon talks Wednesday but failed to resolve a crisis over military demands for political reform. The official news agency SUNA said the five-man Supreme Council and the politicians would meet again Thursday, indicating their six hours of talks had made no breakthrough. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi is four days away from a deadline he gave for his own resignation, with no sign the military is ready to meet his conditions for staying on. He said Monday he would quit Sunday unless the military gave him a free hand to form a new, broad-based government and provided assurances that it would respect the constitution. But army chiefs, who told Mahdi nine days ago he must introduce political reforms, repeated Tuesday their demands must be carried out in full. They put troops on full alert throughout the country and refused to give any guarantees.

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King returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday evening at the end of visits to Japan and the Sultanate of Brunei. The King took part in the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito and held talks with world leaders present for the funeral ceremony in Tokyo. The King held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on the Middle East issue, the call for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Jordanian-Japanese relations. The Middle East question also figured high in the Monarch's talks with other world leaders, including U.N. Secretary

General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.S. President George Bush. On his way back from Tokyo, the King paid a two-day private visit to the Sultanate of Brunei where he held talks with Sultan Hassan Bolkiah and government leaders on topics of mutual interest. The King was received upon arrival in Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Cabinet members, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers. Returning with the King was Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.



Rifai, Lawzi, Qasem, Qatanani meet visiting fact-finding SI delegation

Crown Prince stresses Socialist International role in peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday underlined the major role which Socialist International (SI) can play in creating a suitable climate for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East and in crystallising a foreign policy in Europe designed to enhance the opportunities for peace in the region.

Europe should play an active part and join the Soviet Union in Moscow's current endeavours to achieve just and durable peace in the region under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council, Prince Hassan said at a meeting with a visiting group representing Socialist International, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Prince Hassan heard a briefing on the group's mission from its leader, Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, who said the visit to Jordan was part of a fact-finding mission in the region before a report can be submitted to Socialist International's meeting in Vienna next week.

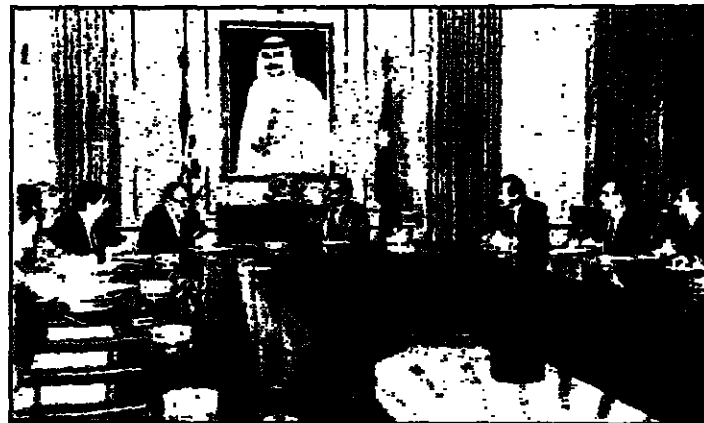
Prince Hassan said the team ought to focus attention on the core of the whole Middle East conflict, namely the Palestine problem, and on the present conditions of Palestinians living under Israeli rule. "It is this deteriorating condition of the Palestinians that led to their present revolt and attracted the attention of the whole world," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan drew the team's attention to Israel's attempts to divert the world's attention from the real problem by trying to create a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Israel has failed in its drive and failed to meet the Arab people's demand for genuine peace, and this has bolstered the stand of the extremist forces in Israel," Prince Hassan said. "For its part, the PLO has done all it can for the purpose of attaining peace, and now there is a need for moderate forces in Israel to help bring peace nearer; otherwise the arena will be left for the extremists on both sides," Prince Hassan warned, according to Petra.

Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and the Socialist International team discussed Middle East developments and current efforts to bring about a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rifai underlined the role of Socialist International and its contribution to the peace process. Wischnewski lauded Jordan's position and its endeavours to achieve peace and security in the region.

The talks revealed an identity of views on the need for convening an international conference to



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (photo above) and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (below) Wednesday meet with a delegation representing Socialist International (Petra photos)



find a formula for a lasting peace, and restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

Qasem stressed the need to convince Israel to commit itself to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and to withdraw its forces from all territories occupied in the 1967 war.

(Continued on page 2)

Armed Forces pay tribute to Al Hussein

Amman (Petra) — Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday sent a congratulatory cable to His Majesty King Hussein on the 33rd anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

In his cable, Abu Taleb conveyed the congratulations of all the Armed Forces members and said "the blessed decision (to Arabise the Armed Forces) embodied the principles of the Great Arab Revolt."

The Jordanian Armed Forces take pride in the high standard they attained with regard to organisation, armament, and training and attribute it to the King's care and unstinting efforts, he added. He said that the Armed Forces would continue to enjoy the King's confidence and great hopes.

ACC trade unions voice total support of alliance

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Trade unions in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and North Yemen Wednesday pledged their total support for the four-state Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and urged ACC leaders to proceed along the "road of fruitful and constructive work so as to attain the highest standard of cooperation, solidarity, and integration and consequently to reinforce and develop joint Arab action."

In a statement issued here following a two-day meeting, the heads of the ACC labour unions lauded the establishment of the ACC, "which represents the aspiration of the Arab Nation."

TASS urges dialogue to end Rushdie row

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet news agency TASS Wednesday suggested Iran and the West seek common ground to end their row over British author Salman Rushdie and his novel "The Satanic Verses."

In a commentary issued one day after Moscow offered to mediate, TASS said it believed Iran wanted to resolve the dispute over the book, which Muslims regard as blasphemous.

"Some say the factor that has helped the difficult Soviet-American rapprochement has been the mutual decision to pay attention to common elements rather than differences in the sides' positions," it said.

"A similar approach could perhaps help in this case as well," Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last month urged Muslims to kill the Indian-born author, now in hiding.

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Wednesday Iran would cut ties with Britain unless it denounced Rushdie. Many Western countries have withdrawn their ambassadors from Tehran.

TASS urged "a whole number of countries" without naming them to seek rapprochement on the issue to prevent "the unfavourable development of this complicated international affair with unpredictable implications."

"It is much easier to take the path of confrontation than to keep one's cool and not yield to emotions," it said.

Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Tuesday the dispute caused concern to the Soviet leadership and was discussed by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Tehran last week.

He said the matter would be raised in Moscow later this week with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez, current president of the Euro-

Arafat says PLO has invited frontline states for meeting

ABU DHABI (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has invited frontline Arab states to talks on forging a united stand on an international Middle East peace conference, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday.

He told the United Arab Emirates news agency (WAM) that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, at odds with Arafat for six years, had told Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that he would attend the talks.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation has invited Egypt, Syria, Jordan (and) Lebanon as the countries concerned with the Middle East problem for talks within two or three weeks with the State of Palestine to coordinate stands on the international peace conference on the Middle East," WAM quoted Arafat as saying.

Arafat added that no exact date had been set for the meeting, which he said could take place in Cairo, Beirut, Damascus

or Amman. "Shevardnadze informed Egyptian leaders during his visit to Cairo last week that the Syrian president had agreed to fully participate in the meeting," Arafat said.

PLO sources said such a meeting would probably be held at foreign minister level.

Shevardnadze held talks with Assad in Damascus before flying on to Jordan and Egypt on a tour that marked Moscow's re-emergence as a major player in the region.

In Cairo he held separate meetings with Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, whom he pressed to agree to an international peace conference.

"Israeli overtures"

In Tunis, a PLO official said Wednesday the Israeli government had been making overtures towards the organisation through third parties but the two sides could not agree on the terms for direct talks.

Likud landslide in municipal polls fuels Shamir rejectionism

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday said his right-wing Likud bloc's victory over the left-leaning Labour party in municipal elections gave new political credibility to his policy of refusing to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The victory also extended Likud's power to the grassroots level for the first time and coincided with major gains for Jewish and Muslim fundamentalists.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, Labour's best known mayor, was reelected to a sixth term but lost control of the city council, in part because of the growing strength of ultra-orthodox religious parties and a boycott by Palestinians.

Religious parties won 12 of 31 seats in the city council, up from 10 in 1983. Kolek's "One Jerusalem" slate got 11 or 12 seats, down from 17. Four went to Likud and three or four to the secular Citizens Rights Move-

ment. Islamic fundamentalists, who contested Israeli municipal elections for the first time on Tuesday, have emerged as a new political power and analysts say they are sure to make major gains in the next national ballot.

In Umm Al Fahm, 30-year-old Sheikh Ra'id Salah Mahajne ousted communist Mayor Hasem Mahamid with 75 per cent of the vote and Islamic movement candidates won 12 of 15 seats on the city council.

In Nazareth, where half the population are Christians, the Islamic movement won six out of the 19 seats.

The Islamic movement has gained grassroots support by providing public services in underdeveloped areas.

Secular Umm Al Fahm lawyer Hussein Abu Hussein said many residents voted for the Muslim list in hopes of better public services after decades of communist rule, and not out of fun-

damentalist convictions.

At stake in Tuesday's balloting were 147 mayoralities and city councils. In 1983, Labour won 54, Likud 26, and the rest went to local lists.

Final results were not expected until later in the week, but according to Labour estimates, the party lost control of at least 10 towns councils, including several traditional Labour strongholds.

Likud has been a major political force on the national level for the past 12 years. But Labour has been perceived as the establishment party because it controls a vast network of grass roots organisations such as the trade union federation.

Labour leader Shimon Peres, who faced growing criticism from other Labour politicians, acknowledged a setback.

"We have definitely been dealt a blow, and I don't want to underestimate its force," he said

Taiwanese delegation finds 'many' investment opportunities in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — Jordan offers a multitude of opportunities for investors to set up industrial projects, both natural resources-based and otherwise, and has the right investment climate to attract Taiwanese, capital, says the head of a visiting trade and investment delegation from Taiwan.

"This is the message we are taking back to Taiwan," said Shin Fung Tung, chairman of the Petrochemical Industry Association of Taiwan who headed the delegation to Jordan during its five-day visit which concluded Thursday.

He cited several factors as outstanding positive elements in arriving at such a conclusion. Among them were the "highly educated manpower, the stable political situation,

the strategic location and Jordan's trade and economic ties with and access to the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Community."

Furthermore, added John C.I. Ni, another member of the delegation, labour costs in Jordan are far cheaper than in Taiwan.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times, the two officials noted that a Taiwanese textile venture which started two months ago at the Sahab Industrial Estate had proved to be very successful and that the owners of the project were now planning to expand its activities. The weaving and dyeing company, which was set up with a \$6 million capital, envisages a garment-manufacturing project at an estimated cost of around \$50 million to \$60 million, Ni said. When completed, the unit, which now employs about

150 people, will have workforce of 6,000, he added.

Taiwan, which has a total foreign exchange reserve of over \$76 billion, is always on the lookout for overseas investment opportunities, he said.

Taiwan's overseas investments — both public and private sectors — include \$1.5 billion in Thailand, \$1 billion in the Philippines and \$900 million in Malaysia, Ni said.

During their discussions with Jordanian ministers and other senior officials, an idea was raised for holding a seminar in Taiwan on investment climate and opportunities in Jordan, Ni said. Moves to realise the proposal will soon be made.

Both Tung and Ni said the recent economic measures and currency adjustments in Jordan had made conditions more attractive and suitable for export-oriented production facili-

ties in the Kingdom.

Although no specific proposal was tabled during the team's visit to Jordan, the discussions here produced several areas of strong possibilities for Jordanian-Taiwanese cooperation either in the form of joint ventures in the private sector or government-to-government projects to produce phosphate derivatives, according to Tung and Ni. "The ideas need to be elaborated and studies have to be conducted before definite conclusions could be reached," said Tung.

The possibilities include computer-related assembly facilities, a phosphoric acid plant, plastic processing units and textile related industries, as well as agricultural processing plants, Tung said.

Jordanian-Taiwanese trade amounted to \$70 million in

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan Worsteds Mills becomes Woolmark License



On Tuesday, February 21, Jordan Worsteds Mills Co. Ltd. Amman signed the Woolmark license to become the first fabric manufacturer in the Middle East to be granted a license to use the internationally prestigious Woolmark symbol on their fabrics made from 100 per cent pure new wool.

Woolmark is the trademark used on pure new wool products which meet international standards of quality, and is established by the International Wool Secretariat (IWS), a wool demand-building organisation funded by growers in the major wool producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere, most notably Australia and New Zealand. IWS owns, licenses, sets standards and controls the use of the Woolmark, one of the best known and most successful trademarks in the world. (More than 400 million

Woolmark labels are used each year by 15,000 licensees in 60 countries). The fabrics from Jordan Worsteds Mills were tested comprehensively and were found to meet the exacting standards needed to use the Woolmark. The fabrics were also designed to the latest international trends. Jordan Worsteds Mills is known throughout the Middle East as a manufacturer of fabrics of the highest quality including the internationally known uniforms for the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The license was signed by Mr. Philip Marshall, IWS Director from the U.K., and Mr. Farid Wagdy, Manager, Egypt and the Middle East on behalf of IWS and by Mr. Yousef I. Monasher, OBE, Chairman and Managing Director of Jordan Worsteds Mills.

PLO wants results if U.S. talks to continue

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants to see results if talks with the United States are to continue, one of its leaders, Abdullah Hourani, told Reuters.

He said the PLO also believes Washington is indirectly encouraging military operations by factions within the PLO through its reluctance to resume a serious dialogue with it.

"It is the reluctance on the U.S. side to enter a serious dialogue with the PLO, to open prospects for peace, which encourages this kind of operation," PLO Executive Committee member Hourani said.

In an interview Tuesday evening, he said the PLO was dissatisfied with its informal gatherings with United States officials.

Hourani was speaking on the same day the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, told the PLO representative there, Hakam Balawi, of U.S. concern at an apparent attempt by PLO fighters to infiltrate Israel last week.

The meeting was the fourth between Pelletreau and Balawi since the PLO and the United States had a first and only round of formal talks in Tunis last December.

Hourani, an independent and a member of the four-man PLO team in that first round, said the PLO wanted a formal and serious dialogue which studied the Middle East conflict in depth and contributed to preparations for an international peace conference.

"The PLO is not prepared to

go on with meetings of this kind unless they bring results, unless they are soon translated into a formal meeting and dialogue," he added.

"If the U.S. administration thinks these are the limits of the dialogue, then it is definitely mistaken, because the PLO does not share this view."

In most of the meetings, Pelletreau has complained of PLO actions which Israel claims violate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's pledge to renounce terrorism. The pledge persuaded Washington to start talking with the PLO after a 13-year break.

Hourani defended the resistance operations as a legitimate response to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and Israeli raids on Palestinian camps there.

Asked if Arafat would prefer small groups to suspend such operations for the sake of talks with the Americans, he said:

"If the U.S. administration moved forward and started discussing the problems seriously, the Palestinian forces which plan operations of this sort might think of giving a chance for the success of the dialogue."

"The U.S. administration doesn't have the right to raise objections against the PLO as long as it doesn't condemn Israel's military repression of the civilian population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he added.

Hourani said the PLO was prepared to hold talks on all aspects of the conflict with any Israeli groups, including the government and the ruling Likud party.

But the talks should be open

Waldegrave softens stand on Shamir's terrorist past

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave Wednesday appeared to qualify his controversial remarks on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's terrorist past.

Visiting an Israeli memorial, Waldegrave was questioned about the 1944 killing of Lord Moyne, then Britain's minister resident in the Middle East.

"I draw the conclusion that out of such horrors all kinds of intense and desperate actions are taken," he said.

The British minister said after meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat last month that Shamir too had once been involved "in what we at the time described as terrorism."

Historians say Lord Moyne's killing was ordered by Shamir, then an anti-British underground

leader.

Shamir, who finds time for most visiting politicians, will not receive Waldegrave during his visit.

Waldegrave cited Shamir's past in arguing that Israel should open talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), now that Arafat has renounced terrorism and accepted the Jewish state's right to exist.

"People ask me what I feel about sitting down with people who in the past have been involved in terrorism," he said last month.

"I feel the same way that I do when I sit down with the heirs to the people who murdered Lord Moyne," he added.

Waldegrave's comments angered Shamir aides who say the

RJ hijackers threatened death, witnesses testify

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Two witnesses in the trial of a Lebanese man charged in the United States under a special anti-terrorism law described Tuesday how hijackers of a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner threatened to kill its guards and crew.

The two witnesses — a passenger and a flight attendant aboard the 1985 flight — said Fawaz Younis, the 30-year-old Lebanese defendant, was the leader of the five armed hijackers and called himself "Nazeeh."

Younis is the first person tried under a 1984 law under which the United States can make arrests anywhere in the world of people accused of acts of terrorism against Americans. There were

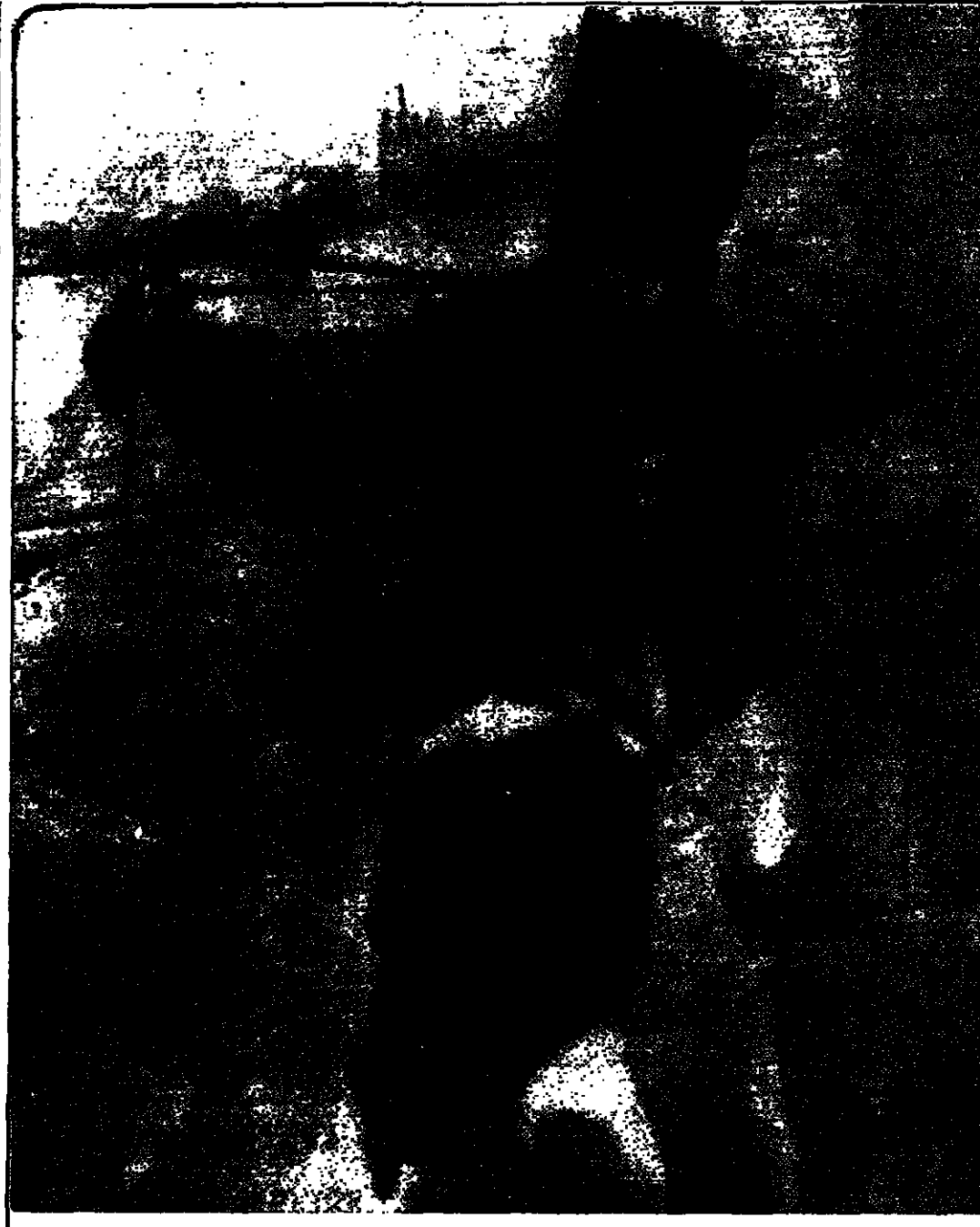
four Americans on the Royal Jordanian flight.

"This is the leader. He was the one giving orders," Mouin Ajam said, pointing at Younis sitting at the defendant's table. Ajam, who lived in Lebanon and was a passenger on the flight from Beirut to Amman, now lives in the United States.

Flight attendant Sawson Odeh said she was threatened by the hijackers with a knife and two hand grenades.

"I was so scared," she said, adding, "I'm 100 per cent sure he's Nazeeh."

The 30-hour hijacking ended on June 12, 1985 when the passengers and crew were freed and the Boeing 727 jet was blown up at Beirut airport.



ANOTHER DAY OF CONFLICT — A Palestinian armed with a slingshot takes aim at Israeli soldiers in occupied Jerusalem in the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite its heavy-handed actions and often brutal handling of protesters, Israel has not been able to dent the anti-occupation revolt.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Crown Prince stresses Socialist International role

(Continued from page 1)

Wischniewski commended Jordan's constructive stand and voiced the group's appreciation for the Kingdom's role in peace endeavours.

The Socialist International team was also received by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi who spoke in detail about the Middle East question and the Palestine problem.

Lawzi also referred to Israel's continued attempts to abort meaningful peace efforts. Lawzi expressed hope that the team would familiarise itself with the real situation in the occupied territories and the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation.

Wischniewski said his team would try to obtain as much information on the situation as possible and submit a full report at next week's Vienna meeting of Socialist International and another in Brussels in June.

Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank paved the way for the PLO to take steps towards peace, and this has opened the way for convening an international conference on this question, Wischniewski noted. Several Senate members attended the meeting.

Director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Ahmad Qatanani met the team at his office and reviewed Jordan's efforts to attain peace. Qatanani also referred to Jordanian-Palestinian ties and the facilities and assistance Jordan offers to the Palestinian people through the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee.

Qatanani said Israel's repressive measures were aimed at forcing the Palestinians to abandon their homeland.

Qatanani also outlined the government's cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in providing services to Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

Taiwanese team finds 'many' opportunities

(Continued from page 1)

1988, with Jordan exporting \$20 million worth of phosphates and potash to Taiwan. The figure represented a 19 per cent growth from the previous year, noted Ni, director-general of the Industrial Development Investment Centre of Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs.

"We highly appreciate the outward-looking, export-oriented strategy of Jordan that was explained to us during our talks here," Ni said.

Tung, while underlining the positive aspects of the investment climate in Jordan, also mentioned two factors that might possibly hamper implementation of certain projects.

The first, he said, was that the electricity tariffs levied in Jordan was slightly high when compared to other countries in the region; and the second was insufficient supply of industrial water. He expressed hope that both issues would be addressed positively.

One of the major factors behind Taiwan's positive consideration of Jordan as potential target of investment is the privileged status and access that the Kingdom enjoys with the GCC and EC, Ni said.

Taiwan, which already has established markets in Europe

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian minister hits opposition

CAIRO (R) — Hardline Interior Minister Zaki Badr hit back at his critics Tuesday, calling them thieves, liars and troublemakers who wanted to undermine Egypt's security. "They are swindlers, murderers, liars and treacherous imposters... who work against public welfare," Badr said of opposition members of parliament who have accused him of overstepping his authority and ordering torture. "We (the police) do not break the law at all. On the contrary, we support the just rule of law and respect it," he told reporters. "No one is above the law starting with the interior minister himself." The opposition has long accused Badr, a former police general, of using strong-arm tactics to deal with dissidents, especially Muslim fundamentalists. During a row in parliament last week, Badr slapped a member of the centre-right New Wafd Party who tried to grab him by the arm. A disciplinary committee recommended expulsion of the member, Taha Raslan, from the assembly.

Iran executes 50 traffickers

NICOSIA (R) — Iran hanged 50 drug traffickers Wednesday, two of them women. The Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said the executions took place in Tehran and 13 other cities. Those executed were involved in smuggling a total of more than 33 tonnes of drugs and some were also convicted of indecent acts, gun running and robbery. The hangings took the number of smugglers executed in Iran since December 31 to at least 225. Hundreds of smugglers and thousands of addicts have been arrested since Jan. 21 when the death penalty was introduced for possession of 30 grammes (one ounce) of heroin or five kilograms of opium.

Iran: Embassy wanted to smuggle door

NICOSIA (R) — A foreign embassy in Tehran planned to smuggle an antique mosque door out of Iran but police foiled the plot, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the police did not name the embassy involved. It said those responsible for stealing the 1,000-year-old door were arrested.

Moroccan parliament adopts union treaty

RABAT (R) — Morocco's parliament had adopted the Arab Maghreb Union treaty signed by North African heads of state in Marrakesh Feb. 17. Representatives Tuesday night adopted a draft law ratifying the treaty creating an economic bloc between Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The draft will become law after it has been signed by King Hassan.

Bomb rips through bank in Crete

IRAKLION, Crete (R) — A bomb blast seriously damaged the offices of the Agricultural Bank of Greece in Crete Wednesday but there were no injuries, police said. The bank was shut when the bomb, which shattered windows of surrounding buildings, exploded. No one has claimed responsibility. Police also defused a second bomb at Iraklion's courthouse after receiving an anonymous call. On Monday another bomb on the island damaged the Iraklion offices of Greece's main opposition New Democracy Party. Police said the bank blast was the eighth bombing in Crete in the last 10 months.

Demands issued for missing Israeli trooper

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An anonymous telephone caller Wednesday demanded the release of all Palestinian prisoners and compensation for victims of the 14-month uprising in exchange for release of a kidnapped Israeli paratrooper, a Palestinian lawyer said.

The soldier, Avi Sassport, 21, has been missing since Feb. 16 when he disappeared en route from the army to his home in the coastal city of Ashdod.

He was dressed in his olive green uniform and armed with an M-16 at the time of his disappearance, media reports have said.

The call to Fayed Abu Rahme, a lawyer from Gaza, was the second reported Wednesday. An earlier anonymous call was received by the Agence France Presse news bureau in Jerusalem, AFP reports said.

Both callers promised that a videotape of Sassport would be released, but none was reported found. It could not be determined if the calls were made by the same person.

Police coordinating the search for the missing paratrooper declined to comment.

Rahme said the caller said his group, the Palestinian Arab Army, would release the soldier if Israel agreed to a series of demands.

They included release of Palestinians apprehended before and during the uprising and compensation for families who had lost children or whose homes had been demolished as punishment, Rahme said.

He said the caller also demanded that Israel broadcast film the caller said exists on the March 1988 assassination of Khalil Wazir in Tunis.

There has been charges that Israel was responsible for the assassination, but Israel has never publicly admitted involvement.

The call to Rahme was the fifth known to have been made in the Sassport case.

Last week, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, the army said. Israel Radio Tuesday received a call from a man who said the soldier would be released if Israel freed 1,500 Palestinian prisoners.

Wednesday's call to AFP was the second this week.

AFP journalist Jean-Luc Porte said the caller was the same man who telephoned the agency Monday to claim the abduction of the soldier on behalf of the Palestinian Arab Army.

The group was not publicly known before the call, but the West Bank Israeli army commander Amram Mitzna said it has been operating since the start of the Palestinian uprising.

The caller told AFP that a nine-minute videotape of the kidnapped Israeli was delivered to the United Nations in Israel, but spokesman for the major U.N. agencies here said they had no information about such a tape.

JORDAN TELEVISION			
Tel: 77111-19			
PROGRAMME ONE			
15:30	Koran	18:00	Children programme
15:40	Programme review	18:10	Religious programme
15:45	Children programme	18:20	Friday's prayer
16:15	Local programme	18:30	Religious seminar
17:30	Programme on Jordan	18:40	Sports programme
18:00	News for the Day	18:50	The world around us
18:20	Local programme	19:00	Documentary
18:30	"Give me a break"	19:10	Message from Omda
18:40	News in Arabic	19:20	Arabic series
18:50	Programme review	19:30	News summary in Arabic
19:00	Programme review	19:40	Local programme
19:10	News in Arabic	19:50	Programme review
19:20	Local series	20:00	News in Arabic
19:30	Programme review	20:10	Arabic series
19:40	Programme on Islamic art	20:20	Local programme
19:50	Arabic film	20:30	Local programme
20:00	News summary in Arabic	20:40	Local programme
20:10	Film (contd.)	20:50	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO			
18:00	La Baby Sitter	21:00	Programme (contd.)
18:30	A variety programme		
19:00	News in French		
19:15	La Vie En Paque		
19:30	News in Hebrew		
19:40	Varieties		
19:50	Bill Cosby Show		
20:00	Thirty Something		
20:10	News in English		
20:20	Feature film: "All My Sons"		
20:30	Maghreb		
20:40	Isba		

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI RECEIVES NEW ESCWA CHIEF: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday received Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (ESCWA) Secretary General Dr. Taysir Abdul Jabbar who succeeded former Central Bank Governor Dr. Mohammad Sa'ad Al Nabulsi in early February. (Petra)

PREMIER RECEIVES U.K. ENVOY: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday received British Ambassador in Amman Anthony Reeve. (Petra)

DENTAL EQUIPMENT FROM U.K.: British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve Wednesday visited Talbikh refugee camp where he inspected the dental equipment which the embassy has recently donated to the camp's health centre. The equipment, valued at £9000. In addition to dental care, the centre provides the camp residents (about 7,500 Palestine refugees and displaced persons) with primary health services, including mother and child health care (J.T.).

BOOK EXHIBITION: Representing His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Al Hammouri Wednesday opened the first Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Motor Centre. The ten-day exhibition contains various scientific, literary, religious, and children's books. This exhibition is designed to demonstrate Jordan's culture and highlight the importance of books in spreading cultural awareness. (Petra)

TRADES LICENCES: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh has decided to extend the period given to renewing trades licences until March 31. A Greater Amman Municipality source called on citizens to exploit this opportunity and renew their licences before the expiry of this date so as to avoid paying fines that could go up by a maximum of 50 per cent of the normal rates. (Petra)

ALIENS RESIDENCE LAW: Public Security Department (PSD) sources Wednesday reported that in light of the recent amendment of the aliens residence law, violators of this law will be fined JD 30 a month effective Wednesday. (Petra)

MARITIME TRANSPORT ACADEMY MEETING: The Jordan Ports Corporation announced Wednesday that it will take part in the meeting of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy due to open in the United Arab Emirates on March 13. The meeting will discuss the academy's present and future programmes and ways to raise the standards of its staff and technicians. The corporation's director general will attend the meetings. (Petra)

DEVELOPING MINERAL SPRINGS: Ways to develop the mineral springs at Afra and Barbita near Tafleeh were discussed at the meetings of a committee charged with supervising the development of the spa. A statement said the meeting, chaired by the Tafleeh governor, decided to open swimming pools to replace those ruined by a landslide during the past winter season, to supply the spa with electric power, install medical clinics and repair roads leading to the spa. The committee had earlier recommended the construction of a hotel and chalet for the benefit of the visitors. The governor said that the spa is surrounded by a number of archaeological sites which ought to be developed by the authorities to attract tourists. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition on geology and development plans in Jordan which includes samples of rocks, minerals, fossils and raw material manufactured in Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Boles and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.
- ★ The Iraqi children's exhibition which includes 100 paintings by Iraqi children and an exhibition of children's books at Zarqa Comprehensive School for Boys.
- ★ The Yemeni national heritage exhibition which includes Yemeni costumes, handicrafts, photos and books at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs and paintings showing the main European cities in three historical eras, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at Zarqa Community College.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings for children by Titiana Rifai and Karoline Ayoub at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Rula Shugairi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Subeih at the Petra Bank Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Anni di Piombo" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "Amie Hall" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Malhas visits northern regions

IRBID (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Wednesday visited northern regions of Jordan to discuss the health services situation.

The minister started the tour by visiting the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and discussed health cooperation between the ministry and the university in health fields and training of physicians in implementation of an earlier bilateral agreement.

Malhas reviewed with the dean of the university's Medical Sciences Department different programmes and courses given to students of medicine, and heard a briefing on the laboratories and other facilities at their disposal.

Malhas toured the campus and the laboratories and inspected services offered to the students. Afterwards, the minister called at the Sarh Health Centre in the company of JUST President Kamel Ajlouni who said that JUST intends to turn it into a teaching centre for students of the medical faculty. The health centre at Sarh in Irbid governorate was set up early this year on 800 square metres at the cost of JD 116,000.

Jabr, UNFP team discuss agricultural projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A team appointed by the United Nations Food Programme (UNFP) to conduct an assessment of work underway in Jordan to develop highlands for agricultural production, met here Wednesday with Minister of Agriculture Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr for a review of the project.

The project, initiated in the Kingdom in the 1970s, is designed to benefit small farmers who, according to the minister, form the largest section of the Jordanian food growers.

The minister spoke in detail on the development project which is carried out in highlands, describing it as one of the main schemes in the country.

The project, being implemented with UNFP assistance, is designed to stem soil erosion in high regions by planting fruit trees provided by the Ministry of Agriculture to the farmers at nominal cost.

The ministry, Jabr said, provides sufficient water supply by drilling artesian wells in areas where the project is being implemented in a number of regions.

The team members toured a number of projects and called at the ministry's operation room which directs teams in combating desert locusts which have been invading the Kingdom lately. The team was briefed on preparations for combating the pest which endangers crops.

The team members are scheduled to tour a number of governorates where the development of highlands is currently underway.

According to Ministry of Agriculture officials, the team plans to request a five-year extension of the development programme in the Kingdom.

Government to subsidise food by at least JD 60m.

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The council of ministers Tuesday evening decided to subsidise basic food commodities by at least JD 60 million this year to help maintain current prices, according to a statement released Wednesday.

According to the statement, wheat, sugar, rice, milk, mutton, fresh mutton and beef, frozen meat, fresh and frozen poultry meat, barley and maize will retain their present prices during 1989.

It said that the Ministry of Supply will maintain a strategic reserve of food supplies sufficing the Kingdom for at least five months.

Earlier this week, the government fixed the prices of frozen poultry meat at 750 fils a kilogramme; and on Feb. 10, the Ministry of Supply announced new prices for cereals and popular food stuffs with a slight increase over previous rates.

The announcement said that Halibona, the milk brand imported by the Ministry of Supply is available in abundance in the Kingdom and is sold at the rate of 720 fils a kilogramme though its actual price is JD 1.130.

Type of milk	Weight	Price in fils
Nido	400 grammes	900
Nido	900 grammes	1,910
Nido	2500 grammes	4,740
Klim	1800 grammes	2,400
Klim	2500 grammes	3,130
Dano	1800 grammes	2,840
Dano	2500 grammes	4,000
Flitfo	400 grammes	710
Flitfo	900 grammes	1,590
Flitfo	1800 grammes	2,525
Tetra	1800 grammes	2,590
Tetra (ordinary)	five pounds	2,300
Avanti	1800 grammes	2,480
Safety	1800 grammes	2,930

The announcement said that Halibona, the milk brand imported by the Ministry of Supply is available in abundance in the Kingdom and is sold at the rate of 720 fils a kilogramme though its actual price is JD 1.130.

Meeting discusses operations of centre for agrarian reform

AMMAN (Petra) — Activities, budget, administrative structure and operations of a newly-created Amman-based Near East centre to promote agrarian reform and rural development were discussed here Wednesday by delegates from six Near East nations.

The meeting, sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), endorsed a statute for the centre and a set of activities and initial programmes to be implemented, according to a statement at the end of the meeting.

It said that the appointment of staff, which will take place in the coming six months, and finances for immediate operations as well as research programmes related to rural development were all examined by the delegates who represent Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia and Pakistan.

The statement said that Dr. Shabib Abu Jabr, Jordan's

candidate has been appointed director of the centre with an Iraqi and an Egyptian as members of the centre's board to serve for three years, while a Tunisian and a Syrian were appointed to serve for two years.

It said that the board will hold its first meeting Thursday. Dr. Mohammad Sqour, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said that the Kingdom will provide facilities to help the centre carry out its operations in its initial stages.

The meeting started here Tuesday with a speech from Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan who underlined the need to stem migration of people from rural to urban regions, through the implementation of rural development schemes, designed to raise the living standards of people and improve their production.

Seminar calls for adopting 'productive' pattern of living

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar entitled "local community development: realities and outlook," ended Wednesday with a decision to establish regional development councils to guide and expedite the process of development at the local level.

The seminar, organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, called for close cooperation between private and government development bodies in an attempt to transform the "consumption" pattern of living to a "productive" pattern through well research projects and programmes.

Participants in the seminar also called on development organisation to intensify their efforts in

the fields training and rehabilitation, especially in relation to agricultural, animal, and crafts production. They also noted the necessity to find funding sources for such projects.

The seminar, which was funded by the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, also called on official and private institutions to carry out field surveys and studies aimed at understanding women's status in society, identifying their needs and classifying those according to a priority scale.

Participants also urged all institutions related to children and their education, to increase efforts at disseminating information in their fields, in an attempt to increase awareness about childhood.

Ministry to implement 1977 law which bans smoking in public places

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Health Ministry Wednesday issued a ban on smoking in public places in implementation of a 1977 law on public health and said that violators of the law will be liable to strict punishment stated under that law.

According to a ministry statement following public areas:

- Conference halls, waiting rooms and patients wards in hospitals.
- In-door sports courts, sports city halls and those of the sports federations in the Kingdom.
- Health Ministry's medical and health centres.
- Waiting rooms in official government departments.
- Conference and lecture halls at the Professional Association Complex and other institutions.
- Amman Financial Market.
- Classified restaurants, where smoking areas should be assigned.
- Departure lounges at the Queen Alia International Airport, and
- In all public transport vehicles including buses, service and taxi cars.

The Health Ministry's statement followed close on the heels of a seminar on combating smoking, organised by Yarmouk University Monday in cooperation with the Jordan National Anti-Smoking Society.

The seminar issued appeals to the concerned authorities to amend a law on the protection of public health from the danger of smoking, to include provisions for strict penalties for violators or regulations that ban smoking in public places.

The seminar urged the ministries of Education, and Information to help launch a large-scale campaign against smoking at schools and through the media, and called on universities to help in the national effort by organising annual seminars to discuss this problem.

The Ministry of Health last year announced its intention to

ban smoking at cinemas, theatres, public libraries, public transport vehicles and other public places.

It said that the 1977 law against endangering public health still existed and would be enforced.

It also said that JD 10 to JD 200 would be imposed on owners of public places for any violation of the law.

April 7 each year has been observed in Jordan as a Non-Smoking Day, as called for by the World Health Organisation.

A national symposium on the effects of smoking on public health held in 1987, called on the authorities to impose taxes, and duties on locally-produced and imported cigarettes in a drive to discourage people from smoking.

Participants in Monday's seminar at Yarmouk University underlined the need for introducing strict measures against smoking in public because of its obvious dangers particularly to pregnant women and children.

A working paper by the Health Ministry presented to the seminar showed that 71 per cent of Jordanian males and 44 of the females are smokers.

Qasem to head delegation to Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a four-day meeting by Islamic countries' foreign ministers due to open in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on March 13 and will be represented by a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, according to a council of ministers statement issued Wednesday.

It said that the Riyadh meeting will discuss a number of developments in the Islamic World.

The statement also announced that Jordan will take part in a three-day meeting by the executive bureau of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council which will

open in Tunis on March 8.

The meeting, which will discuss the status and activities of pan-Arab federations and Arab League organisations involved in transport matters, is to be attended by a delegation led by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Haj Hassan met in his office Wednesday with the dean of the Iraqi Higher Institute for Telecommunications and Postal Services Fathi Abbas who is currently on a visit to Jordan. They discussed cooperation in the field of telecommunications

between Iraq and Jordan; and the minister said telecommunication facilities in Jordan will be placed at the disposal of the Arab Cooperation Council countries to serve as a catalyst in promoting cooperation among them.

The minister also underlined the importance of coordinating programmes in telecommunications between Iraq and Jordan, and between them and the other two partners in the alliance — Egypt and North Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail.

Khatib to open chemical lab. at Aqaba Thermal Power Station

AMMAN (J.T.) — A chemical laboratory built at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station with Italian government assistance will be opened in the port city Thursday by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Courten will be among several dignitaries and Jordanian officials to attend the inauguration ceremony, according to the Italian embassy here.

The embassy said in a statement that the laboratory had been installed by the Italian firm Centro Informazioni Studi Esperienze di Milan and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), in the framework of the technical assistance programme between Italy and Jordan.

The Italian government has contributed nearly \$836,000 in the form of a grant to this important project which also entailed training in Italy of JEA experts, according to the statement.

It said that the laboratory has two sections, one for water chemistry and analytical chemistry and the other for testing fuel, combustion products, transfor-



Central Chemical Laboratory at Aqaba Thermal Power Station

mers and lubricating oil.

For the establishment of the laboratory, the Italian side pledged to provide the following:

- Equipment, technical specifications, lay out and supply
- start-up assistance, and
- assistance for the first year on activities at the laboratory.

According to the statement, the programme of training and

supplying the equipment aims at enhancing the performance of the thermoelectric power stations in Jordan, by enforcing proper operative procedures for the control and surveillance of phenomena relevant to the plant operations.

The project is one of the major achievements of the cooperation that has existed between Italy and Jordan in the field of energy.

PLAZA

1989

TIMES

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

SUNDAY & EVERYDAY
Luncheon Buffet
at the
Coffee Shop



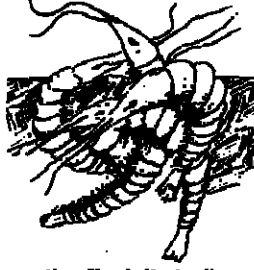
JD.6.500 Adults
JD.3.500 Children

Prime Rib
Night
at the
Coffee Shop



Prime Rib
Yorkshire Pudding
Baked Potato, Vegetables
Selection of Sweets
JD.6.500 pp

Jumbo Shrimp
Night
at the
Andalusia



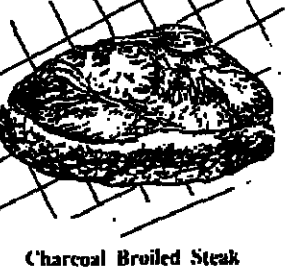
Sea Food Cocktail
Shrimps: Grilled, Deep Fried,
or Provencal
Selection of Sweets
JD.10.000 pp

Spanish Paella
Night
at the
Coffee Shop



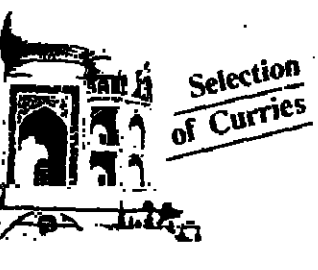
Sea Food Soup
Traditional Paella
(Rice, Shrimp, Hamour &
Calamari etc...)
Selection of Sweets
JD.6.500 pp

Steak Night
at the
Coffee Shop



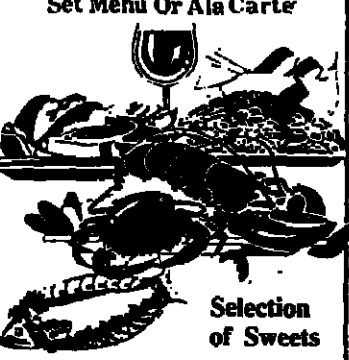
Charcoal Broiled Steak
Green Salad
Baked or Fried Potatoes
Vegetables
Selection of Sweets
JD.6.500 pp

Indian Buffet
Night
at the
Coffee Shop



Beef, Lamb, Chicken,
Shrimp or Vegetables.
Nam Bread
Selection of Sweets
JD.6.500 pp

Sea Food
Night
at the
Andalusia
Set Menu Or A la Carte



Selection of Sweets
JD.10.000 pp

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More fresh air, we are suffocating

THERE was a breath of fresh air coming from Yarmouk University Tuesday where a seminar on combating smoking was held. The purpose of the seminar was to elaborate and formulate a set of additional recommendations to help reduce the habit of smoking in Jordan and by incorporating such new ideas in the existing corpus of domestic laws designed to protect smokers as well as non-smokers from the dangers of smoking. The Jordanian National Anti-Smoking Society deserves to be commended for organising the seminar and for working feverishly to increase the protection of the public from the dangers of smoking over and above the level of protection already prescribed in the 1977 law.

There were a series of decisions emanating from the Yarmouk University seminar which warrant recalling. Foremost is the one urging the Ministry of Education to introduce specific curricula to increase student awareness about the dangers of smoking. It goes without saying that the habit of smoking starts with the younger generation and to stem it from the root one naturally has to begin with students. The student age bracket constitutes the very age group where concern about health, including life and death issues, appears to be minimal and belonging to a time dimension that is so far away! Equally important and pressing is the related recommendation urging the Ministries of Health and Information to disseminate constant information as part of a concerted campaign against smoking. At this juncture one would need to pause to register the view that for such a campaign to come to fruition it must be conducted with continued perseverance so that the message sinks in fully and permanently. Periodic and off-and-on campaigns will not achieve the desired result.

To be sure, there were many other beneficial recommendations, all aiming for arresting the habit of smoking. What one cannot sympathise with, however, is the set of recommendations calling for the allocation of separate places for smokers and non-smokers in public places, be they seminars or conferences or any other public meeting places. Surely the organisers of the seminar have access to solid scientific information that questions the feasibility of protecting non-smokers from smokers simply by separating them. Recent studies conducted in airplanes — where this practice is observed in a desperate public relation effort by airlines to assuage the fears of non-smokers that they are being protected by simply assigning them separate seating sections — have questioned the viability of such a practice. The findings of all these studies have amply demonstrated that non-smokers continue to be affected by the smoke of the smokers even though they are fictitiously and artificially separated from them. It was a great relief therefore that when the Ministry of Health acted on the recommendations of the seminar Wednesday, by promulgating new and additional guidelines that go beyond the ones that called for separate places for smokers and non-smokers by banning smoking in public places in toto. If the smoker views his habit as a right that must be protected, the non-smoker likewise enjoys an equal right to be protected from the smoke of the smokers.

The only effective and operational way to reconcile the rights of each group to smoke and not to smoke is to either separate them completely from one another, which is not feasible, or to ban smoking altogether, which on balance is more functional. This, not to mention the health benefit accruing to non-smokers from such a rule of the thumb, would serve the objective of interrupting their cycle of smoking. In any case, unless there are stiff penalties incorporated into relevant Jordanian laws on smoking, all regulations and bans on smoking would remain mere ink on paper.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE 33rd anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces is the theme of the editorials in Al Ra'i and Al Dustour Arab dailies Wednesday.

Al Ra'i for its part, said that ever since the great step taken by King Hussein in driving out the foreign officers, the armed force have been continuously strengthened and their role increased. King Hussein has been keen not only in appointing Jordanian officers to lead the various divisions, but he has been providing them with all up-to-date arms and every possible means to serve as a shield, defending the Arab homeland, the paper noted. It said that the armed forces of Jordan have become an ideal force, serving as an example for all Arab states. The King's Arabisation of the Armed Forces in Jordan was one of the earliest achievements designed to serve the Arab Nation, the paper added. It said that the move was followed by relentless efforts on the part of the monarch to unify Arab states' ranks in the face of Israel's expansionist aims in Palestine. The King's decision to offer the PLO the chance to lead the way for the Palestinians to attain freedom, and his decision to join three Arab countries to form the Arab Cooperation Council were but a few examples of his continued endeavours in serving the Arab Nation, the paper pointed out. It said that the Arabisation of the Armed Forces 33 years ago was the beginning of the road, and the start of a long chain of glorious events in the life of this nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily believes that the Iranians who are now in open dispute with the West have no alternative but to seek cooperation with and assistance from the Soviet Union and China. Tareq Masarweh believes that in view of Tehran's disagreements with the Western countries, the Iranians would most probably accept Moscow's views about the situation in the Gulf and would finally reach a peaceful settlement with Iraq. Moreover, the Iranians will not back any Western move to overthrow the regime of Najibullah in Kabul and will side with it instead, the writer notes. He says the Afghan rebels stationed in Iran have already refused to take part in joint efforts to launch attacks on Kabul's regime, and he believes the time will come when Iran-based rebels will openly form an alliance with Najibullah's government. The writer believes that the Soviets will be able to bring about peace in the Gulf and a balanced government in Afghanistan, both of which are not in the interests of the United States.

Al Dustour daily said that the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces was in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt; and for this reason, this noble action remained as a source of pride for Jordanians over the years. The King's Arabisation of the Armed Forces was followed by intensive efforts to bolster the Arab ranks on the one hand and to strengthen the Armed Forces in Jordan to defend the whole Arab World, the paper noted.

Soviets successfully dust off Mideast anvil

By P.V. Vivekanand

IN most Western circles, the recent visit to the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is seen as an overt effort by Moscow to "seize the initiative" and assert itself as a credible and honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict and thus pose a challenge to the political domination exercised by the U.S. in the region. Well, right though as some of such assertions could be, one cannot but pose one simple question: What did bring about such a dramatic assessment of the Soviet move rather than a simple, straight-forward view that the Soviet Union, being the 'superpower' that it is, was only in pursuit of assuming its rightful role in the region?

If anything, all indications are that the Soviet Union under the pragmatic leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev wants to disengage itself from political and military wrangles, regional or otherwise, and use its influence to settle disputes rather than aggravate them in the context of superpower relations.

Furthermore, Shevardnadze was only borrowing a leaf from American diplomacy when he undertook a marathon five-state visit in 10 days (memories are too fresh of the 16-state NATO swing that American Secretary of State James Baker did in February). But the marked difference was the Soviet achievement in almost every country Shevardnadze visited.

In Damascus, he managed to convince the Syrians of the dire necessity to undertake moves to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East without waiting to achieve "strategic parity" with Israel. In addition, he advanced the Soviet mediation of the rift between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships by inviting President Hafez Al Assad and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to meet under Soviet sponsorship in Moscow.

In Jordan, he reinforced the Kingdom's pointed focus on the role of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council in preparing for an international peace conference.

In Egypt, Shevardnadze sealed the turn towards excellent Soviet-Egyptian relations — left in tatters in 1980 by Anwar Sadat's expulsion of the Soviet ambassador but painstakingly

rebuilt by Hosni Mubarak.

For the Israelis, Shevardnadze had a different message: Moscow is sincerely interested in building relations with Israel but not at the cost of sacrificing the Arab cause in Palestine. By meeting the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Arens, and the PLO chairman within hours on the same day, Shevardnadze also sought to establish an indirect dialogue between the two leading parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict — something that the U.S. has not been able to achieve in its decades-old shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East or elsewhere. Indeed, the venue that Shevardnadze chose to host the two meetings was significant in that Cairo was the centre-piece in the biggest American diplomatic coup in the Middle East — the 1979 Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

If Shevardnadze's talks with Arens and his subsequent remarks to the press went a long way in quelling speculations that Moscow was on the verge of restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, then his meeting with Arafat was a reaffirmation of Moscow's staunch support for the legitimate Arab cause in Palestine; and statements by other senior Soviet officials bear evidence to the Soviet belief that the PLO has done its part to contribute to the peace process and it was now up to the Israelis to play ball.

In Baghdad, Shevardnadze shot down two birds with one shot: he settled a recent Iraqi-Soviet row over a Soviet television programme on Iraq and reassured the Iraqi leadership of continued Soviet friendship and support. By renewing the Soviet call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the strategic Gulf waterway, Shevardnadze also underlined Moscow's apparent disinterest — at this point in time at least — in playing out the role of an expansionist regime as painted by the West, particularly when Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 1979.

The highlight of Shevardnadze's trip to the Middle East came in Tehran when the Iranian revolutionary partriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini granted him a meeting — something rarely accorded to visiting heads of state, let alone foreign ministers. While many see it as a sign of the importance that Iran attaches to its giant neighbour on the north, the Khomeini-Shevardnadze

meeting could also be seen as an indication of Tehran's move to strengthen relations with Moscow when the Iranian-European row over "The Satanic Verses" and its author Salman Rushdie was snowballing (a confirmation of such a course of events came when the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman offered Soviet mediation to defuse the dispute).

Ironically it would seem, the Islamic Iran's shift towards Communist Soviet Union against the predominantly Christian Europe was only natural when seen in light of the seriousness with which the Iranians appear to be treating the row over "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini's explicit call for closer Soviet-Iranian cooperation against the "devilish acts" of the West adds further to this scenario.

All in all, the Soviet Union has come off with flying colours in its first real test of Middle Eastern diplomacy in many years. It may or may not be at the cost of the Americans, but the fact remains that Washington has only itself to blame if it feels that it was the loser in the bargain since most Arab states, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia, raised serious questions over American seriousness and credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East as far back as 1986. The only question, insignificant though it is if one chooses to raise, is why did it take so long for Moscow to step into its rightful shoes in the Middle East?

In the final analysis, it is obvious that the first forceful Soviet diplomatic foray into the Middle East has been successful, at least to the extent that Moscow has signalled its strong desire to be involved in the region and its peace process and the signal has been received positively by the Arab side. But, the Israeli position leaves a lot to be desired; that is, judging from public statements from Israeli leaders since we do not know what exactly was discussed between Shevardnadze and Moshe Arens in the confines of the Soviet residence on the Nile.

We can only hope that the apparent Soviet determination to seek a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict would be translated into deeds in the same spirit and vein that Shevardnadze put them into words in Damascus, Amman, Cairo and Baghdad.

Amnesty International: Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights intensifies

The following is an oral statement made by Amnesty International to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the Israeli occupied territories in Geneva on January 31.

OVER the past 14 months Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concern — including one year ago before this body — about the extensive range of human rights violations in the Israeli occupied territories which fall within its mandate. Today a pattern of such violations continues, including killings, beatings and unfair imprisonment, showing that the Israeli government is apparently not willing to enforce international human rights standards.

About 300 Palestinian civilians have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers since December 1987. Thousands have been shot and injured, many critically. Many of those who died were killed during disturbances in which stones or other missiles were thrown. Others were killed even though they appear not to have been involved in any violent activities when they were shot.

In the first eight months of the Palestinian uprising known as the intifada, the Israeli army made extensive use of lethal high velocity bullets, supposed to be fired only in life-threatening situations and even then only after clear warning procedures had been followed. In August special types of plastic bullets were introduced with the stated aim of injuring more people but reducing fatalities. They were claimed not to be lethal and therefore usable in non-life-threatening situations within specific limits. However, at least 47 deaths have so far been attributed to their use.

Despite growing protests in Israel and abroad at the general use of firearms by the army, further types of special bullets have recently been used, reportedly causing deaths. During the last few weeks, official statements indicated that the existing guidelines do allow for the potentially lethal plastic bullets to be used even against people fleeing after throwing stones or in the process of building road-blocks, in apparent contravention of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

Deaths in the occupied territories have also been caused by the apparently deliberate misuse of tear-gas, fired for example into hospitals or homes. This has happened despite explicit manufacturer instructions not to use tear-gas in confined spaces as it is potentially lethal. About 60 people are reported to have died in tear-gas related incidents, some of them as a direct result of its misuse.

Several thousand Palestinians have been the victims of beatings, some particularly vicious, while in the hands of army and security personnel. In many instances this was apparently intended to punish or intimidate. Clubs, truncheons and rifle butts have been used. Victims have included children and elderly people, as well as wounded Palestinians forcibly removed from hospitals. Many have suffered multiple fractures and other severe injuries, and at least eight people are reported to have died as a result. Just a few days ago soldiers in the field speaking to Prime Minister Shamir admitted to routinely violating army rules and beating innocent people. Four soldiers cur-

rently on trial, in the only known case of prosecution for beatings resulting in death, alleged in court that they had followed specific orders to beat people during arrest so as to disable them.

One indication of a willingness on the part of the Israeli government to prevent the continuation of widespread and repeated violations of human rights would have been prompt, impartial and thorough investigations leading to appropriate measures against those found responsible. In this regard, the response of the authorities appears up to now to have been far less than adequate.

Despite the hundreds of deaths and the thousands of beatings since December 1987, as of now only three soldiers are reported to have been convicted in cases of fatal shootings, with the heaviest sentence being 18 months' imprisonment for manslaughter. A few

other soldiers have been convicted in cases of punitive beatings, the heaviest sentence reportedly being two-and-a-half months' imprisonment. No prosecutions in cases of apparently deliberate misuse of tear gas resulting in deaths are known to have been initiated.

In this context, Amnesty International is gravely concerned that the Israeli authorities at a high level appear so far to have condoned if not encouraged the excessive use of force knowing that it would result in the death or injury of thousands of people.

Amnesty International understands that the existing guidelines on the use of firearms are currently under review. It wishes to take this opportunity to call on the Israeli authorities to ensure that, as a result of the review, the guidelines will strictly comply with the principles of necessity

and proportionality as set forth in the official commentary to the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

Amnesty International also believes that there is an urgent need for clear indications from the highest level of the Israeli government, in public statements and in effective actions, that the improper use of firearms and any other form of excessive use of force such as punitive beatings will not be tolerated; that prompt, impartial and thorough investigations of all abuses will take place; and that those found responsible will be brought to justice.

A total of over 5,000 people are believed to have been held in administrative detention without charge or trial, usually for periods of six months, since December 1987. The majority of detainees have been held in harsh condi-

tions in a desert detention centre in Ketziot, in Israel. As of mid-January 1989, about 1,100 people were officially stated to be held in administrative detention.

Administrative detention in Israel and the occupied territories can be and has been abused to detain prisoners of conscience. In the great majority of cases detainees have not been provided with adequate information on the reasons for their detention — on the grounds that it was classified — and have not therefore been able to exercise effectively their right to challenge the legality of the detention order. Procedural safeguards such as prompt and automatic judicial hearings to review the legality of the detention order have been removed.

Amnesty International calls for the urgent introduction of safeguards in the use of administrative detention in order to ensure

that no detainee is held for the expression of non-violent opinions or for involvement in non-violent activities. Detainees must promptly be informed of the reasons for their detention and given a hearing in which they can effectively exercise their right to challenge the legality of the detention order, as required by international standards.

Amnesty International urges that the cases of all current administrative detainees be urgently reviewed. Those who are held on account of their non-violent opinions or activities should be released immediately and unconditionally. With regard to the others, those who were not given an adequate opportunity to exercise their rights in accordance with international standards should be given such opportunity or be released without delay.

'They have nothing to lose'

By Abraham Rabinovich

THE ROCK bounced off the grid atop the jeep in front with a clunk that barely registered above the noise of the motors.

The three vehicles in the convoy braked, and soldiers were out and running with surprising speed and purposefulness. This was the commercial centre in Jabalya village alongside the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza where the intifada had broken out. The street was crowded with people and lined with buildings two storeys high, or more. The chances of identifying the direction from which the rock had been thrown let alone apprehending the one who had thrown it, seemed to an outsider absolutely nil. Yet the reserve paratroopers scattered in different directions as if on a well-drilled combat exercise.

A young lieutenant suddenly appeared on a low roof that he appeared to have scaled from the outside. "One of them's running through the orchard," he shouted.

An Arab boy of about 12 painting a door opened a carpentry workshop glanced sideways at the scene and smiled, as if amused at the frenzy his friends could cause in an army convoy with a simple rock, or at the futility of the soldiers' efforts.

A moment later, two soldiers rounded the corner carrying a boy of about seven or eight, each soldier with a hand on one of the boy's arms. As he was swung up into a truck, screaming for his mother, women let out a rising wail, and the street began to fill with people.

"Get on the vehicles," shouted an officer as the crowd started to close in. "Get on and move out."

A plump woman with a white headscarf, apparently the boy's mother, jumped up and down next to the truck, slapping her face with both hands and shouting for mercy. Other women on the sidewalk were doing the same as the convoy moved off.

The scene last week could be viewed as an expression of the brutality — or the futility — of the army's attempt to suppress the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising. It could as easily be viewed as an expression of one of the army's finest hours: its restraint, humaneness and dogged efficien-

cy in an impossible situation.

On a hilltop overlooking Jabalya, Sgan-Aluf Amnon, the paratroopers' battalion commander, nodded towards the tin-roofed warren in which 55,000 Palestinians are living.

"This is the biggest refugee camp in the Middle East. I was first here in 1970. Nothing has changed except the density, three to four per cent more each year. You enter a house at night and see 10 or 11 people sleeping on the floor. Clay houses. They have nothing to lose."

An eight-man patrol moved through an orchard below towards the camp in two columns. They carried a wide mix of weaponry and ammunition — metal bullets, plastic bullets, rubber bullets, "improved" rubber bullets, tear-gas, clubs. The sergeant commanding the patrol would be expected to orchestrate an appropriate response — a minimal response — to a situation that might erupt when they entered the alleys ahead of them.

"We've learned a lot in the past year," said the battalion commander, in civilian life a personnel director of an electronics plant near Haifa. "It's been on-the-job training. One basic change is that we understand that casualties among the Palestinians only serve the interests of the intifada. Our tactics have changed. We do things more cleverly now."

Two weeks earlier, the unit's detachment posted in a compound in the centre of the refugee camp had come under attack by hundreds of stone-throwing residents after two Palestinians had been killed elsewhere in the Gaza Strip. The men had opened fire with plastic and rubber bullets and wounded 14.

In view of the condemnation of the army's behaviour in the recent U.S. State Department report on human rights, what did Amnon have to say about the unit's moral condition?

"It is clear that the solution to this problem is political, not military, and we behave accordingly. The conflict will end with us living alongside each other — in two states, a confederation, or whatever."

"I tell the men: 'In your behaviour towards the local populace, you must keep this in mind.

Not to act provocatively. Not to kick open a door when searching a house. Not to 'accidentally' break a television with the butt of your rifle when you turn round. Not to use brute force unnecessarily."

"We could easily break up demonstrations by shooting a few people, or by having 50 men wade into the crowd with clubs — but we don't. I'm not against using violence when necessary, but not as catharsis, not because you're frustrated at being unable to catch a kid throwing stones at you, so you take it out on the first person you do catch."

"I learned in university that disputes have a dynamic of their own. We have to try not to let things get out of hand."

At the same time, says Amnon, as long as there is no settlement, the army cannot simply stay out of the camps and leave a vacuum such as existed in the Sabra and Shatila camps in the Lebanon war.

"We have to constitute a presence, to let them know that the playing field is not their alone, that there is another player here who will fix the rules."

He is a law student with an open, gentle face. The local Arabs, he says, know the limitations the army has put on itself and they exploit it.

"They know, for instance, that we're not supposed to shoot anyone above the knee with plastic bullets. So they will sometimes put up a barrier from the ground to above their knees, and throw stones from behind it without fear."

The moral dilemma is almost always a subject for discussion during the officers' evening briefing of their men and among the officers themselves, says Amnon. "We encourage the men to talk it out, about the moral conflict and frustration. Otherwise there would be an explosion."

What about the remark in Nabus last month, during the televised confrontation with Prime Minister Shamir, by the paratrooper reservist who said that when he beat Arabs, he felt himself being weakened and the Arab strengthened?

Eran smiles: "That was the first time I saw a unit had served in the territories since the intifada began. That's why they hit. This is

our fourth time. We don't beat. Whoever uses his club, does so from a position of weakness."

U. is an air force colonel, a Hercules navigator, temporarily assigned to ground duty. Some time ago, he organised a group of 10 other desk-bound officers, ranging from lieutenant to colonel, and volunteered their services to the army for intifada duty. They were attached to a reserve unit near Ramallah.

"The first night we had to make arrests in a village according to a list drawn up by the security services. The village was sleeping when we began rapping on metal doors with clubs and shouting 'Itfah el bab! Open the door!' It was a terrible noise. They were poor villagers and they huddled together and tried to protect themselves."

"Then the search began. Some of the soldiers didn't give a damn

and just threw everything around. A woman began to cry when we arrested her teenage son. I felt terrible. How could I participate in something like this?"

"The next night we did the same thing. This time I said to myself, 'Well, what do you expect? You look for suspects and you make arrests. Just be sure you don't hurt people unnecessarily.' The third night it was already routine, and when the woman starts to cry you say, 'Oh God, is that wailing beginning again?' The fourth night you're shouting at the woman, 'Uskut! Shut up!'"

"I felt us hardening from day to day. Not becoming brutalised — we were never brutal — but it could lead to that, or at least to acceptance of excesses that others perpetrate."

— The Jerusalem Post.

OPEN FORUM

Be kind to your pets

MANY people are very concerned about the way some dogs are kept in the city, on very short chains, with little or no exercise. One is a young puppy which is kept chained in a locked cage on a pavement outside the owner's house in Abdoun. The cage is completely exposed to the elements and the puppy cannot move anywhere to stimulate its circulation and keep warm, and it has no bedding to lie on.

The owner thinks it is perfectly all right because he feeds it well. Previously he kept an adult German Shepherd bitch for two years in the cage. The animal had resigned to its fate until it hit a lady and was removed to the municipality dog-pound. It was not allowed to be returned to the owner as he would not undertake to keep it elsewhere.

Now, in spite of that, an innocent puppy has to suffer; dogs need more than food, exercise and shelter are a must.

There is no point in keeping a dog chained in a cage and never letting it out. It has no quality of life.

This man says he "needs" a dog — for what? It cannot be a guard dog under such circumstances. It would be a simple matter to remove the cage into the owner's garden and cover the sides. If the dog cannot be allowed to run loose then a running chain on a wire is the answer.

If you have a dog please look after it properly, otherwise it will have a life of misery.

Why punish a puppy by imprisoning it for life? While on the subject of dogs, may I point out that two pet dogs were recently poisoned in the national park on the airport road, as a warning to other dog owners. Those persons laying poison in a public place should announce that it is there, but preferably should use more humane methods for controlling strays.

Chris Larver, on behalf of Special Project for Protection of Animals in Jordan

EN BREF

La Reine Noor inaugure une exposition de mosaïques à Lyon

Sa majesté la Reine Noor a inauguré mardi 21 janvier une exposition de mosaïques byzantines de Jordanie au musée gallo-romain de Lyon. L'exposition était organisée par le Département des antiquités jordaniennes, avec la collaboration du gouvernement français. La Reine, ouvrant la manifestation par un discours prononcé dans un français impeccable, a insisté sur la similitude de cette exposition et du bicentenaire de la Révolution française: «C'est en grande partie aux hommes et aux femmes qui ont fait cette Révolution que l'on doit l'établissement des bases philosophiques et intellectuelles de l'ordre démocratique et humain déployé en Europe et en Amérique du Nord au 18ème siècle», a-t-elle souligné. La Reine Noor a estimé que les mosaïques présentées portaient un message: «C'est un témoignage de la gloire passée, mais aussi un défi pour surpasser cette gloire dans le futur», a-t-elle dit. (d'après Petra)

Ecrasez-la!

Le ministère de la santé a rendu public mardi une interdiction de fumer dans les lieux publics, en application de la loi de 1977 sur la santé publique, précisant que les contrevenants seraient punis selon la loi. Voici la liste des endroits où il faut écraser sa cigarette: hôpitaux, complexes sportifs, salles d'attente des établissements gouvernementaux, salles collectives des associations professionnelles, bourse d'Amman, halls de l'aéroport, transports publics y compris les taxis. De plus, les restaurants classés (étoiles) devront instituer des zones spéciales pour les fumeurs.

Taba: affaire classée

Israël et l'Egypte ont signé dimanche soir à Taba, sur la Mer Rouge, l'accord de restitution de l'enclave à l'Egypte. Le transfert de la souveraineté aura lieu le 15 mars sous la forme d'un déploiement de policiers égyptiens à Taba. L'accord prévoit notamment le versement par l'Egypte, à titre d'indemnités, de 37 millions de dollars au propriétaire de l'hôtel Sonesta, dont la fixation du prix avait constitué une pomme de discorde dans les négociations. Les Israéliens en réclamaient au départ plus du double. La gestion de l'hôtel Sonesta restera sous le contrôle de la société internationale du même nom pendant les 20 prochaines années. Les modalités d'accès à Taba prévoient que les Israéliens pourront pénétrer dans l'enclave avec un simple passeport, sans visa. Les touristes pourront régler leur note à l'hôtel en chèques. Le litige de Taba avait éclaté à la suite du retrait israélien du Sinaï en 1982.

Elections municipales: victoire du Likoud

Le Likoud a remporté mercredi une large victoire sur le parti travailliste lors des élections municipales israéliennes. Le parti conservateur d'Yitzhak Shamir l'a emporté dans six grandes villes sur dix, alors qu'il en contrôlait deux auparavant. Le travailliste Teddy Kollek conserve toutefois sa mairie à Jérusalem, malgré une poussée des partis religieux. Selon le Likoud, ces résultats montrent que les Israéliens refusent le dialogue avec l'OLP, prôné par le leader travailliste Shimon Peres.

Algérie: vers la démocratie

La nouvelle constitution adoptée jeudi dernier par 73,4% des suffrages exprimés va permettre à l'Algérie de tenter l'aventure de la démocratie, après plus d'un quart de siècle de pouvoir exclusif du Front de Libération National (FLN), parti unique issu de la guerre d'indépendance. Trois nouvelles lois devraient fixer dans les prochaines semaines le cadre de l'exercice des libertés essentielles prévues par la constitution: une loi sur les associations qui enclenchera le pluralisme politique et syndical, un nouveau code électoral et un code de l'information garantissant la liberté d'expression.

Le saviez-vous?

Vieille Europe

Un Européen sur quatre pourrait avoir 65 ans ou plus en 2025 et l'Europe risque de compter bientôt deux habitants recevant une pension ou une allocation pour un actif ayant un emploi, estime l'Association internationale des personnes âgées. Le nombre de personnes âgées va augmenter rapidement en Europe, surtout lorsque les enfants du baby-boom d'après-guerre atteindront la soixantaine.

En proposant des négociations directes

L'OLP marque un point

En proposant des négociations directes avec Israël, la diplomatie de l'OLP a marqué un nouveau point cette semaine, alors qu'Yitzhak Shamir les rejetait une nouvelle fois à Paris.

L'appel à des négociations Israël-OLP est venu le même jour de Tunis et du Caire, dans la bouche d'Abou Iyad, numéro deux de l'OLP et d'Edouard Chevardnadze. «Nous le disons tout haut. Nous sommes disposés à des rencontres directes avec les Israéliens. Qu'ils viennent se rencontrer ou en public, nous tenons à les rencontrer», a déclaré mercredi dernier Abou Iyad. Il a ajouté que l'OLP était désormais convaincue de la «coexistence de deux peuples, deux Etats».

C'était la première fois qu'un dirigeant palestinien de si haut rang préconisait ce genre de rencontres, l'OLP ayant toujours affirmé que des négociations ne devaient se dérouler que dans le cadre d'une conférence internationale.

Dans le même temps, le premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir et le ministre des Affaires étrangères Moshe Arens rejetaient cette proposition. M. Shamir, qui a effectué cette semaine une visite de quatre jours en France, a réaffirmé son opposition à toute négociation avec la centrale palestinienne, ajoutant que les autorités françaises s'étaient montrées «excessives» quant à la possibilité pour Israël de trouver d'autres interlocuteurs dans la communauté arabe palestinienne.

M. Shamir a par ailleurs reconnu que la France était «très con-

sciente de la nécessité de préserver la sécurité d'Israël». Il a toutefois ajouté avoir «essayé d'expliquer au président Mitterrand que toute entente avec M. Arafat, qui lui donnerait plus d'importance et de prestige, accroîtrait la violence dans la région».

Interrogé sur l'évolution de l'OLP, M. Shamir a déclaré ne voir aucun changement «dans la position idéologique et la philosophie» de la centrale palestinienne et a exclu une nouvelle fois toute rencontre avec Yasser Arafat. C'est une «organisation terroriste dont le but est la destruction politique et physique de l'Etat et du peuple d'Israël», a-t-il dit. «Israël ne cédera pas à la violence», a-t-il ajouté à propos de l'intifada.

M. Mitterrand et Mme Thatcher, réunis en mini-sommet, ont fait écho aux propos de M. Shamir: le président français a insisté sur le fait qu'Israël doit répondre à la nouvelle situation créée par les récentes évolutions de l'OLP. Quant à Mme Thatcher, elle a posé trois «sine qua non»: les cinq membres du Conseil de sécurité — et non les deux supergrands, comme le voudrait Israël — doivent être les piliers de la conférence internationale. Les Palestiniens doivent participer à la négociation. Les Etats Unis doivent se montrer «fermes» avec Israël.

Tout se passe comme si une course contre la montre s'était engagée entre l'OLP et Israël vis à vis de l'opinion mondiale, au moment où l'Etat hébreu lance une offensive visant à mettre en doute la volonté de paix des Palestiniens.

La Princesse Alia et l'éducation

Penser par soi-même



Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Alia s'élève contre une conception archaïque de l'éducation. «Nous devons permettre aux étudiants de penser par eux-mêmes», a-t-elle déclaré cette semaine dans une interview au Jordan Times.

L'adolescence a été très lent à adopter une pédagogie moderne. «Peut-être les responsables n'aiment-ils pas le changement parce qu'ils craignent que leur position s'en trouve rabaisée», suppose-t-elle.

La Princesse met encore l'accent sur le fossé entre les matières enseignées à l'université et les besoins réels sur le marché du travail. «Il n'y a pas d'adéquation entre l'offre et la demande. Nous avons besoin d'une structure de conseil pour les étudiants, les informant des besoins de la société».

Ce manque d'information, la Princesse Alia le met aussi sur le compte des médias. «Il y a des lacunes majeures que les médias pourraient combler. On peut encore beaucoup les améliorer et c'est au gouvernement qu'en incombe la tâche». «Bien sûr, poursuit-elle, aucun gouvernement n'est infallible. Mais en matière d'information, on peut être critique constructivement, tout comme on peut critiquer d'une manière destructive. Les choses ne sont pas noires ou blanches».

Dans ce sens, la Princesse Alia estime que le manque de tolérance des responsables au gouvernement constitue un obstacle aux réformes du système d'éducation. Selon elle, ils n'expliquent pas assez les sens de leurs mesures aux gens, d'où des politiques qui n'atteignent pas leur but. L'attitude «nous en savons plus que vous, alors laissez-nous faire» est mauvaise, dit-elle. «Toute erreur est rattrapable; mais si personne ne parle, comment savoir que l'erreur existe?» (Propos recueillis par Salameh Ne'matt)

Six millions de litres brassés chaque année en Jordanie

Mon keffieh pour une bière

Les Saoudiens traversent la frontière à Aqaba pour le seul plaisir d'en boire. Les expatriés ne tarissent pas d'éloges sur son bouquet. La Jordanie en consomme quelque 6 millions de litres par an. Qui est-ce? La bière «made in Jordan», brassée à Zarqa. On en consommait déjà dans la région il y a 6000 ans...

Jordan Breweries, pionnier dans le Royaume en la matière, produit l'Amstel depuis 1958, sous licence néerlandaise, et occupe 76% du marché. Les 24% restants sont absorbés par les Arab Breweries, qui brassent localement la Henninger, sous licence allemande.

Tout commence au début des années 1950. Raouf Abu Jaber, consul honoraire des Pays-Bas, contrôlait déjà 56% des importations de bière dans le royaume avec Amstel, dont il vendait quelque 600.000 bouteilles par an (chiffre de 1955). Et ce malgré un prix assez élevé, en raison du coût du fret. «Devant le succès de ce produit, j'ai alors eu l'idée de brasser la bière sur place, pour la vendre moins cher», a souligné M. Abu Jaber. «Dès la première



Il y a 6000 ans, la bière en Egypte

année de production, en 1958, nous en vendions déjà un million de bouteilles».

Les ventes ont depuis augmenté régulièrement, pour atteindre leur sommet en 1982, avec 6 millions de bouteilles vendues. Depuis, on constate un certain glissement de la consommation. Fera-t-il moins chaud ou l'alcool a-t-il moins bonne presse?

Baisse de la consommation ou pas, Amstel, imitée par Henninger en 1962, conserve toujours la première place dans les chopes du royaume. Résultat de cette «jordanisation» de la bière: les importations ont pratiquement dis-

L'Occident et l'Iran campent sur leurs positions

Rushdie: un sang d'encre

Encore des morts en Inde et au Pakistan, des manifestations dans le monde entier, Téhéran qui menace de rompre ses relations diplomatiques avec Londres faute de dénonciation de Rushdie: les «Versets sataniques» continuent à faire couler de l'encre et du sang. A l'inverse des capitales occidentales, Moscou ne s'associe pas à la condamnation de Khomeiny, qui souhaite de «fortes relations» pour affronter les pays occidentaux.

La région la plus touchée par les violences anti-Rushdie est la terre d'origine de l'écrivain britannique «condamné à mort» par l'ayatollah Khomeiny: le sous-continent indien. 21 personnes ont déjà trouvé la mort en Inde et au Pakistan au cours de manifestations contre son livre jugé blasphématoire. Dix d'entre elles sont tombées sous les balles de la police vendredi à Bombay lors d'une manifestation de cinquante autres ont été blessées. A Karachi (Pakistan), un garde de sécurité a été tué dimanche, déshéauté par un engin explosif lancé contre le British Council.

Dans une communication à l'AFP, l'organisation jusqu'ici inconnue des «Forces révolutionnaires musulmanes du monde» a annoncé que Salman Rushdie sera «exécuté avant le 15 mars», en application de la sentence de Khomeiny.

Des manifestations de musulmans ont eu lieu de New York à Copenhague en passant par Londres et Paris. A l'inverse, plusieurs milliers de manifestants ont défilé dans 23 villes de RFA, à Stockholm et à Paris pour condamner «le régime d'oppression de Khomeiny» et ses «tentatives d'exporter la peur et le terrorisme pour sauver son régime».

A Moscou, une quinzaine de



Téhéran menace Londres de rupture diplomatique

personnes ont manifesté lundi devant l'ambassade d'Iran en qualifiant de «cynisme d'Etat» l'absence de réaction soviétique face à l'anathème lancé par l'Iran. Au lendemain de la visite d'Edouard Chevardnadze à Téhéran, Moscou semble plutôt s'engager sur la voie de la médiation (voir encadré).

A Paris, un millier de manifestants, dont un tiers d'immigrés iraniens et pakistanais, ont défilé dimanche contre la publication en France des «Versets sataniques». Certains participants brandissaient des portraits de Khomeiny, scandaient des slogans réclamant la mort de l'écrivain. Mais une controverse brouleuse s'est ouverte au sein des manifestants entre parisiens et adversaires de la condamnation à mort.

Les premiers invoquaient les textes canoniques, les seconds opposaient la prééminence du droit français sur le droit musulman et leur désaccord de principe avec la peine de mort. Ils critiquaient de plus le «caractère incohérent d'une condamnation qui serait mieux avisée de s'appliquer à des ennemis plus dangereux pour les musulmans de France, comme Le Pen, plutôt qu'à un écrivain qui, somme toute, ne fait que de la littérature».

Le premier ministre français,

Michel Rocard, a fait savoir que «tout nouvel appel à la violence ou au meurtre, sous quelque forme que ce soit», donnerait lieu à des poursuites immédiates. Quant au président François Mitterrand, qui recevait cette semaine Margaret Thatcher, il a souligné qu'il ne fallait pas confondre liberté d'expression et appel au meurtre.

M. Mitterrand et Mme Thatcher ont exclu dans l'immédiat toute mesure supplémentaire après le rappel des ambassadeurs de la CEE. Le premier ministre britannique a souligné que son pays n'avait en fait «plus de relations directes avec l'Iran».

L'Iran a de son côté lancé un ultimatum à la Grande Bretagne: si dans une semaine Londres ne condamne pas le livre de Rushdie, Téhéran rompra ses relations diplomatiques avec la Grande Bretagne.

L'éditeur français Christian Bourgois a finalement annoncé la parution «prochaine» de la traduction des «Versets sataniques», tandis que des journaux en publiaient de larges extraits. L'une des plus importantes chaînes de librairies américaines, B. Dalton Barnes & Noble, a remis le livre en vente sous la pression de nombreux écrivains américains. (d'après agences).

Moscou: pédale douce

«De fortes relations» entre l'Iran et l'ex-grand Satan soviétique pour affronter l'Occident: tel est le souhait exprimé dimanche par l'ayatollah Khomeiny lors de la visite historique d'Edouard Chevardnadze à Téhéran, après six ans d'hostilité entre les deux pays.

Khomeiny s'est également félicité que l'Iran et l'Union soviétique «vivent dans la paix et la sérénité».

Mardi, le porte-parole du ministère soviétique des Affaires étrangères a indiqué que l'affaire Rushdie avait été évoquée lors des entretiens à Téhéran. Il a ajouté que l'URSS, qui a adopté sur cette affaire une attitude prudente, pourrait offrir sa médiation dans ce conflit. «L'Iran cherche une solution et pense que l'URSS pourrait jouer

un rôle positif», a-t-il dit.

Le numéro un iranien avait transmis le 4 janvier un message à Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, «phénomène unique» dans les relations irano-soviétiques selon M. Chevardnadze. Il lui conseillait de «s'intéresser sérieusement à l'Islam», reléguant le communisme «dans les musées de l'histoire» et l'enjoignant «de ne pas tomber dans les filets du capitalisme».

Résumant la réponse de M. Gorbatchev, M. Chevardnadze a expliqué que «les conditions étaient désormais réunies pour que les rapports entre les deux pays s'étendent à tous les domaines». Il a noté que la lettre de l'imam contenait des «points importants de convergence, mais aussi des points de désaccord».

M. Chevardnadze a souligné la

longue tradition de bonnes relations entre les deux pays à travers les siècles, rappelant aussi que «le respect mutuel» et la «non-ingérence» faisaient partie de la règle du jeu. Il a assuré que M. Gorbatchev insistait sur «le devoir de chaque nation de lutter pour un monde dénucléarisé d'où la violence serait absente». Le chef de la diplomatie iranien a eu une visite à Bagdad, consécration des liens privilégiés existant depuis des décennies entre l'URSS et l'Irak, renforcés au cours de la guerre Iran-Irak.

De retour à Moscou, M. Chevardnadze a indiqué que son pays allait aider à faire avancer les négociations de paix entre Téhéran et Bagdad. Il a réitéré son appel au retrait des flottes étrangères du Golfe. (d'après agences).

Salon du livre à Amman

En ce début de printemps, Amman voit le livre à l'honneur: pour la deuxième fois, la capitale jordanienne accueille du 1er au 10 mars un salon international du livre, rassemblant quelque 125 maisons d'édition de 18 pays arabes et européens, sous le patronage du Prince Hassan.

Cette manifestation se tient dans le parc d'expositions de l'automobile (route de l'université). On pourra y consulter et acheter plus de 12.000 titres en arabe et dans beaucoup d'autres langues, présentés dans 70 stands. A noter, une réduction de 25% au moins sur les prix pratiqués par les éditeurs a été obtenue par l'organisateur du salon,

la maison d'édition Dar Al Bashir.

Dar Al Bashir, première maison d'édition jordanienne, a vendu en 1988 quelque 15.000 livres, soit un chiffre d'affaires de 200.000 dinars. Six autres éditeurs jordanien atteignent un chiffre d'affaires d'au moins 100.000 dinars par an, selon le propriétaire syrien de Dar Al Bashir, Radwan Daboul. M. Daboul possède des maisons d'édition à travers tout le monde arabe et en Europe. Mais Dar Al Bashir, à Amman, est devenue leader de son groupe depuis 3 ans et exporte 60 à 70% de sa production dans les pays voisins.

Un salon du livre a eu lieu à Amman il y a cinq ans, mais a

enregistré une fréquentation décevante. Selon plusieurs éditeurs, la Jordanie n'est pas un pays de lecteurs. Qui lit quoi en Jordanie? Quels sont les problèmes rencontrés ici par les éditeurs et les auteurs? Tel sera le sujet d'une enquête publiée la semaine prochaine dans Le Jourdain.

Samer Badaro

Salon du livre, jusqu'au 10 mars, à gauche sur la route de Sweilch, 500 mètres environ après l'université de Jordanie. Ouvert tous les jours de 10h00 à 21h00. Liaison par bus spéciaux à partir de l'université.

Aden approche le CCA

Un pas de plus vers l'unité économique arabe: la Jordanie et le Yémen du Sud ont décidé dimanche de créer un haut comité mixte pour le développement de relations bilatérales économiques, commerciales et culturelles.

Selon des sources jordaniennes, Aden souhaiterait par la suite se rallier au Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA), créé le 16 février et regroupant la Jordanie, l'Egypte, l'Iraq et le Yémen du Nord. A cette fin, le Yémen du Sud devrait bientôt former des comités mixtes avec les autres membres du CCA.

L'accord jordanien-yéménite a été conclu à l'occasion d'une visite officielle de quatre jours à Amman du ministre sud-yéménite des Affaires étrangères, Abdel Aziz Dali, lors d'un entretien avec le premier ministre Zeid Rifai.

Le chef de la diplomatie sud-yéménite a également évoqué avec le ministre jordanien de l'Industrie et du Commerce, Hamdi Al Tabaa, la possibilité d'établir une liaison aérienne Amman-Aden via Sanaa.

M. Dali a par ailleurs remis au Prince Hassan un message du chef d'Etat sud-yéménite, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas.

FIGURE

La voix cassée

Il a suffi d'une tournée avec une patrouille de l'armée en Cisjordanie pour faire un pacifiste de Dan Almagor, chanteur officiel de l'armée israélienne. Fils d'émigrants polonais, il avait 14 ans en 1948, à la naissance de l'Etat juif. Il était fasciné par l'idéal sioniste au point de composer, une fois adulte, l'hymne officiel des troupes de choc israéliennes. Depuis quarante ans, sa vie se confond avec celle de son Etat et de son armée. Il est devenu avec ses chansons patriotiques la coqueluche des médias et du public israéliens. Consécration suprême il y a peu: Dan Almagor a été nommé l'éducateur officiel des jeunes recrues de Tsahal. Un must.

Et puis, à la mi-1988, tout bascule: un chef militaire lui demande de faire un film sur le nouveau commandement de Cisjordanie. «C'était tous des copains, je ne pouvais pas dire non», se souvient Almagor. Comme 90% d'Israéliens, il n'avait jamais mis les pieds dans les territoires occupés. «Tout ce qu'on te raconte est de la pure désinformation», lui promettaient ses amis de Tsahal. La route de Tel Aviv à Hébron fut pourtant un long calvaire.

«Hier, on en a coulé plusieurs», se vante un officier, en argot militaire signifiant qu'ils avaient tué par balles. Puis il



Dan Almagor

ajoute, désignant un camp de réfugiés: «Regarde ce tas de merde». Almagor ne supporte pas le regard des gamins menottés au poste de police. «Etes-vous devenus fous? Vous vous battez contre des gosses. En quarante ans de présence en Palestine, les Anglais n'ont pas commis les mêmes atrocités que vous», lance-t-il aux soldats.

De retour à Tel Aviv, il rejoint les rangs des pacifistes. Son idéal est brisé. Ses anciens amis l'évitent, les médias l'ignorent. Surtout depuis la nuit où Yasser Arafat a reconnu Israël à Genève. Almagor avait alors composé un poème d'un genre nouveau: «Nous avons attendu cet instant pendant quarante ans». (d'après l'Evenement).

SORTIR

Le CCF en Révolution

«Allons Z'enfants!» Le Centre culturel français consacre ce mois de mars à la célébration du bicentenaire de la Révolution française. «Elle constitue l'une des pages les plus marquantes de l'histoire de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme», estime le directeur du CCF, Guy Senzier. «Sa portée dépasse largement les frontières de la France, comme en témoignent les manifestations présentes dans le monde entier. Le bicentenaire nous donne à réfléchir sur les grands principes de 1789: souveraineté de la nation, liberté garantie par le droit, égalité des citoyens, fraternité. Il nous invite aussi à un dialogue privilégié entre les cultures et peuples des cinq continents», ajoute-t-il. Demandez le programme.

- Théâtre: L'acteur Eric Eycheine présentera le 19 mars à 20h au Centre Culturel Royal «Vivre libre ou mourir», d'après Michelet, ou il fait revivre les épisodes les plus célèbres de la Révolution.
- Conférence: La critique Nelly Lama prononcera une conférence intitulée sur «l'Art et la Révolution française», le 27 mars à 18h au CCF.
- Exposition: «1789» retrace les grands événements de la Révolution, présente ses grands hommes et rappelle les grands principes. (du 14 au 23 mars au CCF).



- Cinéma: La Révolution vue par le cinéma depuis une quarantaine d'années. Le 13 mars: «Les chouans» (Henri Calef, 1947). Le 15 mars: «Si Versailles m'était conté» (Sacha Guitry, 1953). Le 20 mars: «Les manies de Clyde» (Jean-Paul Rappeneau, 1971). Le 22 mars: «Chouans» (Philippe de Broca, 1988). Le 27 mars: «1789» (Ariane Mnouchkine, 1974).
- La bibliothèque du Centre met en circulation de nombreux livres sur cette période et un programme vidéo est proposé à la Cafétéria.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Annie Hall

De Woody Allen, avec Woody Allen, Paul Simon, Diane Keaton: Andy est nerveux depuis qu'il a cessé de fumer et suit une psychoanalyse. Il rencontre Annie sur un court de tennis et l'encourage à chanter. Mais Annie a des phobies et son «psy» lui prescrit d'aller de libération dans ses meurs. Elle accepte donc l'invitation d'un producteur à s'installer chez lui à Hollywood...

Centre américain, jeudi 2 et vendredi 3 à 19h00 (en anglais)

Duke à Monterey

Interviews avec le jazzman Duke Ellington et morceaux choisis du festival de Monterey.

Centre américain, mardi 7 à 19h00 (en anglais)

Marie-Antoinette

A l'occasion du bicentenaire de la Révolution française, une série en quatre épisodes sur l'«Autrichienne», femme du roi Louis XVI.

CCF, les 4, 6, 7 et 8 à 18h00, cafétéria (en français)

En italien

«Anni di piombo» (Les années de plomb), de Margherita von Trotta, avec Jutta Lampe et Barbara Sukowa: la dérive terroriste de gauchistes allemands au cours des années 70 (jeudi 2). «Le camp della glaglia», de Steven Lisberger. Film d'animation (samedi 4).

Haye Arts Centre, à 19h30.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 2: The warriors, The wicked lady, Into the night, Mrs.

TELEVISION

«Il fant ther Birgit Hanz»: policier. Les services secrets allemands veulent éliminer Birgit, fameuse terroriste en cavale. A ne pas manquer. (JTV, vendredi 3 à 17h30).

LIVRES

A la Bibliothèque du Centre culturel français, trente nouveaux livres édités à l'occasion du bicentenaire de la Révolution pourront être consultés durant le mois de mars.

THEATRE

Gros Chagrin Les Boulingrin

Deux pièces de Georges Courteline, avec Flavio Romero, Gaynor Peridakis, Yazid Bensaid, Jean-François Dobelle, Muriel Mussallam, Rula Malky, mises en scène d'Olivier Roche, costumes d'Ana Senzier: la bêtise humaine dépeinte dans des farces et satires sociales au comique percutant. Une heure de rire. Centre culturel royal (studio théâtre), jeudi 9 et samedi 11 mars à 20h15.

Businesses seek a human rights role

Businesses are working towards a role in the international movement for the restoration of human rights to the deprived communities or individuals of the world.

By Miriam Bianco

LONDON — Businesses are seeking a niche in the international movement for human rights. In the first major attempt in that direction, the sportsware firm Reebok recently presented the first annual Reebok Human Rights Award to four young human rights activists.

The \$100,000 prize honours outstanding individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of human rights. It is the first international award aimed specifically at young people, who, against great odds, have significantly raised awareness of human rights.

"Reebok owes a lot to young people and we're proud to share our good fortune by giving something back to them," said Joseph LaBonte, president of Reebok International Ltd. "We hope this annual award will inspire more young people to act on behalf of human rights."

Despite the inevitable publicity spinoff of such awards for the sponsoring commercial companies, human rights activists are heartened by the development. "It's the kind of thing that may just prove to be an incentive for a closer monitoring of human rights situations across the world," said one observer.

The 1988 award is shared by four people: two young South Africans, Janet Cherry and Dr. Salim Karim; a Cambodian refugee, Arn Chorn-Pond; and a Chippewa American Indian, Winona LaDuke.

"The fact that exceptional candidates were nominated from across the world did not make the board's selection process an easy task. We deliberated with human rights experts and weighed the accomplishments of each candidate individually," said LaBonte, a member of the award board, which includes the world-renowned singers Peter Gabriel and Sting.

Janet Cherry is a 27-year-old white anti-apartheid activist who is currently under severe house arrest restrictions. On Nov. 16 she was released from solitary confinement in Port Elizabeth's North End Prison, where she was held for over eight weeks. Her recent detention marked her third imprisonment without charges by the South African authorities.

Threats

Before her latest arrest, she was involved in the Black Sash, the End Conscription Campaign as well as active in the National Union of Students and a crisis clinic in Port Elizabeth. Her refusal to leave her work in this town led to numerous death threats, firebombings and assaults.

Dr. Salim Karim is a 28-year-old black South African doctor who works for the cause of equal and improved public health care. He was instrumental in the formation of the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA), which rose out of the struggle of democratic doctors in

South Africa to bring to book the doctors who had acted against their oath after the death in detention of black activist Stephen Biko in September 1977.

Arn Chorn-Pond is a 20-year-old survivor of the Cambodian genocide, who held friends and relatives while they died at the age of nine. He watched the execution of his parents as well as that of thousands of others, survived for a year in the jungle and "died a million deaths" himself.

His personal suffering has given him a vision to end the sufferings of children who are the victims of war and violence — embodied in the programme he co-founded, Children of War. This brings young war survivors face to face with U.S. teenagers from 450 schools in 60 U.S. cities.

Winona LaDuke is a 29-year-old Chippewa Indian, educated at Harvard and committed to alleviating the plight of the indigenous peoples of North America. She is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the U.S. treatment of native people — a history of forced removals and broken treaties.

She is also working towards empowering her people to develop cultural self-respect and regain land for their traditional agriculture-based economies. At present she is involved in the Youth Project — an organisation whose 'Land Recovery Project' aims to establish a framework for native Americans to negotiate the transfer of indigenous lands back to the people.

The \$100,000 prize money will be divided between the four winners — their respective organisations will receive \$20,000 each: Black Sash, NAMDA, Children of War and The Youth Project. The winners will also receive a personal honorarium of \$2,000 each. Seven award finalists will receive \$2,000 each in recognition of their personal contributions to human rights.

The finalists were: David Bruce of South Africa, Joaquin Antonio Carceres of El Salvador, Lobsang Jampa of Tibet, Juan Paolo Letelier of Chile, and Maria Paz Rodriguez of Texas, Dalee Sambo of Alaska and Tanya Coke of New York. — Academic File.



Hungary struggles with poverty

By Meriel Beattie
Reuters

BUDAPEST — In sparsely-stocked foodstores, ageing factories and chilly homes, Hungarians are wrestling with a concept they were told could not exist in a Communist state — poverty.

"I couldn't believe it when I went to the grocers and saw the prices," said 27-year-old student Imre Sajtos after the government's latest package of price rises pushed up food prices by almost a quarter.

"In recent years I have had to leave meat out of my diet. Now I will have to do the same with cheese."

The latest rises, including a 150 per cent increase in public transport fares and 80 per cent on medicine, are part of a series of belt-tightening measures introduced by the government in 1987 to curb what has become east Europe's largest per capita debt.

Like other Communist countries whose political ideology pledges to provide for all citizens, Hungary has been reluctant to admit that its economic policies caused social hardship.

But in the atmosphere of political and social reform that has prevailed since Karoly Grosz became leader last May, the realities of poverty feature daily in the state media.

Statistics quoted by the official MTI news agency said 23 per cent of the national population lived below a "socially acceptable subsistence level."

Others figures show nearly 400,000 elderly Hungarians in 1988 had neither pension nor regular income. Only an eighth of these received any type of state welfare.

Lack of time

Many of the five million-strong work force have second or third jobs to make ends meet and trade union estimates say the average Hungarian works 10.5 hours a day. Other sources put this at 12.4 hours.

"Hungarians have reached the point beyond which most of them can't make extra money," said Sajtos, who for years has cleaned windows to finance his studies. "They simply don't have the time."

Most Hungarian goods are very cheap by Western standards. But in a country where real wages have sunk to 1973 levels and state subsidies are being slashed, the increases have had a dramatic effect on daily life.

Writers loiter by empty tables in Budapest's once-crowded restaurants and market stall owners wait to fill the small shopping bags of a dwindling flow of customers.

"Far, far fewer people are buying, and those that do behave differently," said poultry-seller Attila Horvath, shuffling in the cold at Lehel square market, which borders a workers' district of Budapest.

"They ask for smaller quantities, they accept poorer quality, and they are determined to get

the best bargain they can." Many households are finding it hard to cope. In Budapest alone, an average of 150 flats a week have electricity supplies cut off because they cannot pay their bills. Water and sewage rates are to quadruple in March.

While the rises fuel embittered public debate, they have also sparked rare warnings from the country's trade union movement.

"We have a situation which is near conflict, a bad situation," Peter Fahn, deputy head of the National Trade Union Council Szot, recently said in an interview.

Strikes are unusual in Hungary, but tens of thousands of workers in the eastern province of Szabolcs-Szatmar held a 10-minute work stoppage in early January to protest at the latest measures.

Szot later issued a statement accusing the government of breaking its promise to keep inflation around 12 per cent and justifying strike action as a means of protest.

More than 60 per cent of Hungarians who answered an opinion poll on the rises this month said they expected strikes or street demonstrations to protest against the situation.

But other workers say strike action is unlikely. "Most people realise strikes will just make conditions harder for the workers," a smallholder commented. "I think people will just become resigned to a harder lifestyle."

Longer life expectancy carries obligations

By Ute B. Fröhlich

HEIDELBERG (INP) — Elderly people should play an active role in running society, but their efforts must be directed through the most suitable channels. That view was expressed recently by Professor Ursula Lehr at the 11th Federal Congress on the Older Generation in Frankfurt/Main. At the time, she was speaking as a gerontologist from Heidelberg University. Now, as newly appointed Federal Minister for Youth, Family, Women and Health, she shares responsibility for translating that call into action

— a task for which she is admirably qualified.

There are actually several generations of senior citizen, says Professor Lehr, as evidenced by the large number of elderly people who act as nurses, attendants and counsellors for others: "I reject the idea of compulsory training for the elderly but I'm also against obliging the younger old person to look after the very old."

Congress President Hans Hummer took the view that longer life expectancy carries a duty for the older generations to do more to help each other. Old people, he

said, should attend more to the family, neighbourhood and local community (through voluntary work) and play an active role in cultural life. In addition, he called upon the government to devote more attention to issues affecting the elderly. The presence of the European Commission's expert on the aged and the President of the European Platform of Senior Citizens' Organisations (EPSO) lent special weight to the 11th Federal Congress on the Older Generation. Delegates came from the public and private-sector associations, institutions and agencies.



Elfriede Jelinek

Female plays, male plays? A powerful play is a powerful play. It remains mightily uncertain whether there really exists a female aesthetic, feminine drama, and women's dialogue. It's strange enough that six new plays by women authors point to parallels: "Before I Bite the Grass" ("Bevor ich ins Gras beiße") by Barbara Brönnen, "Illness" ("Krankheit") by Elfriede Jelinek, "Female Clown" ("Clownin") by Gerlind Reinshagen, "The Exorcism of Don Juan" ("Die Austreibung des Don Juan") by Freya Klier, "Western Life" ("Abendlandleben") by Gisela von Wysocki, and "Women Miners" ("Bergarbeiterinnen") by Elfriede Muller?

W. GERMANY — Beautiful femininity — a horror. Reading six plays by women becomes a grueling chat with zombies: Elfriede Jelinek's vampire women in "Illness," the undead Emily Bronte from Gerlind Reinshagen's "Female Clown," and the apparently dead grand-mother, an absolutely obscene old woman who sucks her granddaughter's life-blood in Barbara Brönnen's "Before I Bite the Grass." It's not just chance that opposition, male and female, occurs here so often. In reality too women are returning to world and energies previously frequently ignored. But the return of the long repressed always entails aspects of the cruelty suffered.

The ladies in their dramas have heads roll. Gisela von Wysocki, for instance, saws open Guillaume Apollinaire's skull, regards the storehouse of his memory, and discovers "Western Life," Europe's culture. At the end of Elfriede Muller's "Women Miners," the characters crash against the theatre wall. And Freya Klier finally has Don Juan massacred ("The Exorcism of Don Juan"). Women who grab all the power for themselves: grandmothers who fray nerves; mothers who tear apart their babies — the women dramatists let off steam here, sometimes in truly Old Testament fantasies of revenge. They luxuriate in apocalyptic visions and also all-embracing dreams of love. After Nora, Medea, after modest marital happiness, grand opera. Strong feelings at any rate, often over-excited, "hysterical," affected. But always splendidly improper. Material for directorial fantasies. One thing these women certainly no longer are: well-behaved. "By no longer pleasing, the woman takes the first step towards her liberation" says Elfriede Jelinek.

These authors' stage creations are all basically free, or at least unchained.

Frosts of freedom

The daily oppression of women in marriage and family is scarcely the central theme any longer — except in Elfriede Muller's dialect piece "The Women Miners." After years of detailed work on coming to terms with their biographical past with texts furthering self-comprehension and accurate depiction of women's everyday existence, life-size, on the stage, women now have written themselves free. On the agenda now are the development of the conquered spaces, the frosts of freedom, loneliness. The main characters in the plays are all women and all alone. They haven't left some wife-beating macho. Their own will-force drives them towards new shores. But where? All their ideas are still vague. Gerlind Reinshagen's Dora says: "I want to learn from the tigers ... They withdraw into themselves, becoming really heavy like stones ... and fly. That is absolute... non-involvement. Non-involvement — freedom." And Elfriede Muller's Kali, like Dora an actress, declares: "In flight yearning becomes freedom."

These — linguistically sometimes presumptuous — high-flights are often directed towards a very simple objective: towards man. In the debut work by Freya Klier, born in the GDR in 1949, the objective is Don Juan. He "sweeps them away, the women. Out of their daily routine. Into the unlimited." Freya Klier stylises him as Sisyphus, who slaves away with women and is basely murdered by the jealous husbands. Close the coffin, love dead, utopia vanished. Gerlind Reinshagen approaches the man, opponent in the sex war and

Of hermaphrodites and unlimited love

simultaneously the object of women's secret desire, somewhat more cautiously. Actress Dora, scarcely abandoned by her worthless Arthur, may throw herself into the arms of a tightrope walker of all people, but men cannot cope with women's obsessive verbosity and radical feelings. An idea also to be found as motif with the other women writers.

Hermaphroditic existence

The women in these dramas at present exist in a floating state between male order and female chaos — a balancing act and clowning. "I'm neither this nor that" — says Elfriede Jelinek's Carmilla too. What remains is at best a hermaphroditic existence. And at worst? A nasty blood-bath. Elfriede Jelinek, who previously larded her "Piano Player" with pin-pricks and sadomasochistic cynicism, again hits out in "Illness." Women, here exiled in an unworthy shadowy existence, awakes to fresh life as vampires, and suck their young dry down to the last drop of blood. Their men then hunt them to death. A powerful piece, brimful of tastelessness and heartfelt infringements against good tone in the theatre. All that remains is a battlefield. Landscapes of ruins in Elfriede Jelinek, mountains of beer-cans for Gerlind Reinshagen, and the stage as a mislaid storeroom for cultural artefacts in Gisela von Wysocki. Their sets are dominated by junk and garbage. Heiner Muller's "Neglected Shore" is fustily clean in comparison. Women cannot maintain order. Their inner spiritual confusion is outwardly expressed as chaos. Order is a male affair here — obsessive, restricting, and regimenting. "I understand you as an absolutely straight pencil line" is how Benno defines his wife in Elfriede Jelinek. And the researchers analyse rows of frogs until tabulations grow out of their lungs — in Gisela von Wysocki's perverse "embryo-in-spirit game" with male science.

Unlimited love, madness

These women dramatists appear here as champions of

what does not fit into streamlined thinking: unlimited love, blindly raging hate, madness, and art. They do not simply once again reconstruct in the theatre the everyday reality shaped by men, but instead build a second world through an act of self-creation. Remnants of dreams, visions, and figures from art infiltrate and subvert the — often scanty — stage action. There appear such figures as Don Juan, Charlie Chaplin, Emily Bronte, Apollinaire, and Picasso's "Drinker." All of these women dramatists rematerialise dead artists or absent persons — as witchcraft. Whatever has been driven apart by the process of civilisation is forced together again here: dream and reality, feeling and thinking, instinct and reason, and dead and living nature. An artificial, often strained, but necessary synthesis. Stylistic incongruities and rifts in the play's dramatic architecture are unavoidable. The appearance of Dora's parents in Gerlind Reinshagen's stage action is ill-prepared. Actress Kali's meeting in a wood with her intended (a dwarf) is completely unmotivated in Elfriede Muller's "Women Miners." The unconscious always plays a part in the construction of these plays — completely ignoring what is realisable on stage. Fluttering bats on an open stage — a nightmare for any director. People who crash against the theatre walls — difficult to put into effect.

Theatre machine

Gisela von Wysocki's "Western Life" is nothing but a collection of stage directions for a complicated theatre machine.



Gisela von Wysocki

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Focus on People

Publishing —
Jordanian style

This week Ellen Kettaneh Khoury talks to Focus on People about how she and her husband Rami Khoury established a publishing house in Jordan and the obstacles that they have yet to overcome.

By Mariam M. Shahin

BORN in Lebanon, raised in Jordan, educated in Jerusalem, Beirut and London, Ellen Khoury has had both Western education (at Our Sisters of Zion in Jerusalem, the Beirut University College and the University of London) and a Middle Eastern one.

In an era in which the role of women in Middle Eastern society is being questioned and re-evaluated, Ellen Khoury has taken a different approach from most women in dealing with both a career and family.

Ellen Khoury recalls how she began her career. "I studied political science and Middle Eastern politics at the university because I thought this is what I like and therefore that's what I'd study. After I began working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I began to realise that my possibilities of advancing in my field were rather slim. For a long time I wondered why no one had advised me to do another field of study that could have enabled me to be a more independent career woman. Unfortunately, then as now, there is no such thing as career guidance in our part of the world for young men and women."

"Many women come to a point where they have to choose between a career and a family. That's what happened with me. When I got married I made a choice of my own free will to abandon the work force as such and raise my children. This is a very controversial subject now, but I believe you can't always manage a career when you have very young children."

For almost ten years after marrying Rami Khoury, Ellen raised their two sons, Hani and Raja, while taking on temporary jobs in translation. (Arabic-French-English), frequently assisting former Minister of Social Development Inam Al Mufiti in her various projects, and doing research for the World Bank and the Los Angeles Times. "Working with different people and institutions gave me a broader scope than I would probably have gotten otherwise," she says.

"During those ten years I often wondered if I had been right to forfeit my possible career with the Foreign Ministry or if it would not have been better for me to have studied something else, such as law, and thus have had an independent career. I was searching for the right balance of home and career life. I was looking for the right niche. I wanted to find a project that could fulfill the professional needs of both Rami and myself."

In October 1986 she found the right balance, "the project." Ellen and Rami became equal partners in a publishing firm, Al Kutba. "There was a time when I had almost given up hope of finding what I wanted, but I was lucky enough to have found my niche," recalls Ellen Khoury.

Despite the fact that publishing in a country like Jordan is far from being a "money making business," Ellen Khoury explains why she and her husband have chosen publishing as their meter. "There is a need for publishing in Jordan. It is absolutely necessary to have a home industry in certain areas, and publishing is one of them. We basically want to encourage people to read more. We publish in both English and Arabic and we want to promote Jordan and the Arab World on all fronts; publishing is one way of doing that. Just as certain writers can do damage to our image in the rest of the world we can take it into our hands to improve that image."

"In the publishing sector, we either commission experts to write manuscripts on a given topic (the ones we are publishing usually have to do with ancient history, archaeology, tourism or children's books) or people approach us on their own with manuscripts."

"Our first obstacle is our small market. When you have a small market such as Jordan your production costs per book will be much greater than if you have a larger market. However, we have decided to cut down on possible profits in order to sell more books. Our aim is to really encourage people to read more. So far our books deal mainly with Jordan. Even in our children's books Jordan is used as the setting."

"Another obstacle we face is the copyright law or the lack of it. I believe this is deterring many would-be writers and publishers from producing anything at all. Furthermore the price of good quality paper has increased by 40 per cent since the summer. There was a worldwide increase in the price of paper and our currency fluctuated."

Despite publishing in both English and Arabic, according to Ellen, "for every 400 books that we sell in English we sell one in Arabic." Despite these rather discouraging figures, the Khourys do not intend to stop publishing in Arabic and hope to have a children's series out in the near future, which they hope to present to the Ministry of Education as a sample of what can be done by Jordanian writers and publishers.

Contacts to distribute Al Kutba's publications in the rest of the Arab World as well as Western Europe and the U.S. have already been made.

Ellen points out that "we have to be patient. Our financial returns will be very slow in coming. As long as we cannot write and publish books and publications on current and controversial issues we certainly won't have any bestsellers. Once we can discuss controversial issues we will have thought, a debate and maybe get ahead somehow (and) have some progress."

Asked why all these obstacles did not drive her to greener pastures for her and her husband's business she stoically says: "Those who opt out are abandoning what is theirs. Arabs have offered and given their talents to advanced nations for far too long. We are born to this region and it is our responsibility to make it grow."



Brazilian born dancer Ismael Ivo during a recent performance in London.



Brazilian born dancer Ismael Ivo. "The imagination has the capacity of creation."

Interpreting life through dance

By Mary Patrick

LONDON — What have Afro-Brazilian beat and dance in common with Gustav Mahler? Ismael Ivo is the breathtaking answer.

The full impact of the fusion of contrasting cultures seldom registers as strongly as in the work of the internationally acclaimed Ismael Ivo. In a recent solo performance of his *Delirium of a Childhood* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London, Ivo demonstrated how cultural tradition from diverse roots could be incorporated into a spectacle of dance and form, and how evocative music could combine the strains of African drumbeats and the fine-tuned operatic sound by Gustav Mahler.

I asked Ismael what had given him the idea of creating *Delirium of a Childhood*. He said, "I had a certain wish about childhood — kind memories with images of love inside." It is this which he wanted to convey. He thinks that we, as adults, can learn a lot from the loving trust of children.

It was difficult, he said, to create the intimate atmosphere. He tried to do this by "dancing for himself," because "that way, the performance has its own life" and "the audience can enter the delirium" he has created.

In an opening scene, *Desert*, Ivo presents himself as a stunning blue god-like figure, motionless like a statue. Folds of pastel coloured material ripple around him, evoking a sense of the rays from the sun with only the soft light of candles lighting the stage.

Reminder of life's fragility

The mystical mood is completed as Ismael gently plays a harmonica, as barely discernible tones, winsome noises, waft over the audience, reminiscent of creatures alive somewhere far off in the distance. Next to him lies a baby doll, vulnerable and helpless, clearly reminding the audience of the fragility of life.

In the next scene, *The Creation*, Ismael Ivo dances and sways to the awesome operatic sounds by Mahler, his arms flowing and straining to the music. Then the mood changes, as African voices soothe us with their lullabies, the gentle rhythms embrace and entice us, and Ismael reaches out in anguish, as it were, and moves in sudden chaotic movements as he lost control. He returns lively and energetic, with joyful movement celebrating his life, and that of the child.

A contrast of mood follows in the next scene, *Why Are the Flames So Dark?* as the stage goes quiet and still and Ismael closes in on himself as the sounds of Mahler envelop us again. Ismael appears to awaken, sensing danger, and rises from the ground tenderly picking up the baby to the sombre voice of

Mahler's *Songs of A Dead Child*.

With his sense of fear palpable as he holds the child, Ismael turns while his costume wraps effectively around him, until he becomes still as a statue. The effect is very moving.

Then we were treated to the tribal sounds of native voices, as Ismael discards his costume and emerges, primitive and free, dancing, moving in time to one of the most basic rhythms of life, the pulsing beat of the drums. With the opera of Mahler, the feeling now is vaguely uneasy, and man is now stepping out in trepidation, becoming confused.

Moving forwards and backwards, searching into the unknown to find which path he should follow, his movements become frenzied, with anguish and despair, until the jungle beat returns and Ismael relaxes to the familiar rhythms. The voices become louder, entrancing and hypnotic in their repetition.

Man gradually learns where he can tread, as Ismael uses three plates on the stage as stepping stones, and expresses joy at his success. The sophistication of Mahler is replaced by the ancient rhythms of life, evocative of strange spirits, and voodoo. Ismael whitens his face with powder, to represent a ceremonial mask, while he dances to the vibrant rhythms, overpowering, and evocative of the dark forces of ritual and black magic.

Return to earth

In the final scene, *From the Earth You Came, To the Earth You Shall Return*, we hear strong masculine voices, deep, and earthy, stirring vague memories, reminding us of something we have heard before, but have somehow forgotten, as Ismael strains and struggles to move with the melodic rhythm.

Then the voices bring confusion, as he steps into his garment, as though he needs to protect himself from the forces around him, folding the drapes to enable him to dance to the drums vibrating to the beat of the heart.

The singing and chanting is intoxicating, and Ismael plays with the audience, and he steps lightly up the steps between us, but he is confused as his controlled and difficult movements convey.

He rushes maniacally round the stage searching for his way,

while the unremitting voices overpower us. He drowns in chaos and despair. He then finds food and water and celebrates by tipping the bowl all over him. He seems saddened at the loss and picks up the baby, as the soft rhythmic sounds of African lullabies return, and with them, hope. He is happy to be alive.

Ismael's performance bridged a cultural gap and successfully blended together diverse artistic forms from different corners of the world. He mixed the ancient and modern, the basic and primal with the sophisticated music.

Through the medium of his art, he uses myth and ritual to express the inner reality of man. As he

dances, we can sense the unseen presence, the child within the man, internal and spiritual life forces, to which he gives shape and form, translating the turmoil of our inner natures through the external reality of the dance.

Through children's eyes

Although the piece explores the pleasure and pain of life's emotions, and the struggle for survival and for man's expression of himself in a hostile world, the performance ends on a hopeful note, which the young life of the child signifies. The child has purity, and innocence, and it is this which Ismael Ivo believes is important for us as adults to retain.

By seeing life "through the eyes of a child," the joy of life can be obtained. For this reason, he said, it is necessary to cherish the "child within the man."

"The imagination," he said, "has the capacity of creation, is very intense, very open," so he let the performance go with this kind of feeling. Ismael saw a correlation between the intensity dramatised by the evocative music of Mahler, and the African lullabies, which were also intense, even though they come from completely different cultural roots.

Throughout the performance, Ismael dances, sometimes controlled, sometimes with passion,

but never halfheartedly. He strains every muscle as though he were in danger of letting a note escape that he has not interpreted or expressed.

He conveys his feelings of sadness or joy, despair or anguish, with equal ease, so it is no surprise to learn that having studied drama, and dance, he was awarded the Traflet Pirandello, an award for best solo dancing in his hometown of Sao Paulo, in Brazil.

He is now based in New York, and is known internationally following performances in Vienna, Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt, Lyon as well as Japan — Academic File.

The Andy Warhol show

By Peter Elsworth
Reuter

NEW YORK — Square silver balloons floating above a corridor wallpapered with yellow and blue cows' heads give an instant introduction to the pop art world of the late Andy Warhol.

Warhol, who dominated the 1960s New York art scene and introduced the world to the artistic qualities of soup cans and other mundane objects, is the subject of a blockbuster show at the Museum of Modern Art here.

The show fills two floors of the museum and features some 300 paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and films by Warhol, who died Feb. 22, 1987, following surgery in New York.

The first floor of the show appropriately displays a number of self-portraits of the artist, who made a cult out of himself and his white toques, but always remained aloof and detached.

"He was the most deadpan personality I've ever met, totally silent, poker-faced, passive, a total sphinx," art historian Robert Rosenblum said in an interview recently, adding that "talking, if you can call it talking, to him was like talking to a brilliant mute."

"I don't like to touch things, that's why my work is so distant from myself," the artist once said.

Typically, the portraits are dominated by multiple images of the same photograph, silk-

screened onto canvas and painted in bold, flat colours.

The most enigmatic series, a face with Warhol holding two fingers to his lips, dates from 1967. In the most dramatic image, which serves as an introduction to the show, his face is coloured by a pink, red and white camouflage design.

Warhol was born Andrew Warhola in Forest City, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1928, to Czech immigrant parents. He studied art in Pittsburgh and moved to New York in 1949 to work as a commercial artist.

Window display

He entered the world of fine art in 1961 by using five of his paintings for a department store window display.

Many of Warhol's paintings from this early period are on display at the museum.

Mostly scraps of commercial graffiti taken from newspaper ads for objects such as windows, wigs, shoes and vacuum cleaners, the images are mainly black and white, painted by hand and often unfinished.

However, as the show progresses, the images become starker and the bold colours of commercial design begin to appear.

Warhol's best work is generally considered to have been done in the mid-1960s, when he worked

out of a studio in New York known as the factory.

There he produced repeated silkscreened images of such everyday objects as dollar bills, Coca-Cola bottles and boxes of Brillo pads.

These culminated in the familiar rows of Campbell's soup cans and portraits of such cultural icons as Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, all of which are on display.

"Warhol was a graphic artist with a background in advertising. He knew how to capture the attention of people, how to use the same object repeated 24 times rather than a single image," said David Bourdon, an art critic whose biography "Warhol" is due out this Autumn.

Warhol's flat-colour, dispassionate style was in direct contrast to the emotional, hands-on approach of the abstract expressionist school of the 1950s epitomised by Jackson Pollock.

Images

"The pop artists did images that anybody walking down Broadway could recognise in a split second — comics, picnic tables, men's trousers, celebrities, shower curtains, refrigerators, coke bottles — all the great modern things that the abstract expressionists tried to hard not to notice at all," Warhol once said.

"To the end of his life, he was full of praise for advertising," said Bourdon. "He had no highfalutin' disdain for commercial art and helped bring down the barriers between commercial and fine art."

In the other gallery of the show, the mood is more sombre, starting off with a series of Warhol's disaster paintings — silkscreens of gruesome car accidents, many with blood-splattered bodies in full view, as well as race riots and dispassionate views of an electric chair.

As with the soup cans and the portraits, the disaster paintings show the same image repeated again and again.

As the 1960s progressed, Warhol delved into film-making, photography and, increasingly, the development of a cult personality.

"Publicity is like eating peanuts. Once you start you can't stop," he said.

The show ends with an electric range of images that Warhol had been working on in the last years of his life, running from the colouring of a photograph of an astronaut on the moon to a giant study of Leonardo Da Vinci's "Last Supper" superimposed by corporate logos.

Twelve films Warhol made between 1963 and 1967 are also being screened during the show.

Fighting goitre in Ethiopia

By Wona Mwita

ADDIS ABABA — A stranger could be forgiven for thinking that an extra-large and ungainly double chin is characteristic of women of childbearing age in certain areas in Ethiopia.

The prevalence of this physical disorder — an enlarged goitre caused by iodine deficiency — may be reduced if the Ethiopian government adopts proposed legislation for the mandatory iodisation of salt.

A countrywide survey in 1980-81 showed goitre prevalence to be as high as 26 per cent. Other surveys indicate that Ethiopia's entire population of 42 million is at risk since most of the country's water supply is iodine-free; the diet is also iodine-deficient.

According to the 1980-81 survey, 12 out of Ethiopia's 14 administrative regions had pockets of endemic goitre. The peak prevalence for males was in the 13-18 age group and for females, those above 19.

Lack of iodine in the body causes a hormone deficiency which makes the thyroid gland enlarge.

Iodine deficiency is most pre-

valent among females of childbearing age, according to Dr. Hana Neka-Tebab, acting head of the medical nutrition department at the Ethiopian Nutrition Institute (ENI).

Pregnancy and breast feeding call for extra iodine, she explains. The demand for this trace element by the woman and the foetus is manifested in an enlarged goitre in the mother.

Women with low thyroid hormone levels suffer from amenorrhoea — they do not menstruate — at times for up to a year. They put on weight, usually feel sleepy, and are very sensitive to cold.

The incidence of enlarged goitres is more pronounced in higher altitudes where rain causes soil erosion and washes away iodine found in the topsoil. This has been shown in the River Ganges plains in northern India where flood-prone areas have higher goitre prevalence than non-flood areas.

Neka-Tebab points out that babies with low thyroid levels at birth can suffer deafness, mutism, neurological disorders, mental retardation and general growth retardation. The enlarged goitre in

such a child becomes clearly visible at the age of two. At puberty, when the metabolic rate increases, the number of goitres cases rise.

Worldwide, says the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, nearly 1 billion people live in iodine-deficient areas. Africa accounts for an estimated 100 million of them. It describes the illness as a "silent scourge" — yet one which can be eliminated within five to ten years by making iodine available in salt, water, or oil.

Goitre is among Ethiopia's most acute public health problems. The iodising of salt as a means of controlling it is recognised. But the Ethiopian Nutrition Institute, founded in 1962, has lacked both a clear government mandate and the resources to carry out a programme of the magnitude needed to eradicate goitre in the country.

It has attempted limited-scale programmes, but without success. ENI is currently calling for a national programme whereby salt iodisation is controlled and monitored closely.



Jordan Petroleum Refinery
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Tenders Invitation For Prequalification And Bidding

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. announces tender invitation No. 4/89 for the Energy Conservation Project which shall include building of CO Boiler in F.C.C. Unit, Air Preheater in Crude Distillation Unit III, waste heat boiler in platform unit and accompanying facilities including all civil, mechanical & electrical works related to these new installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their pre-qualification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. on 1/4/1989.

Pre-qualification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience & background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of pre-qualification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the Company's Head Office at First Circle - Jabal Amman against JD (100) per set not later than 10/4/1989.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the Company's Head Office not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday on 3.6.89.

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Algeria sees \$18 oil price possible

Iraq predicts OPEC summit next year

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iraq's oil minister predicts that a summit conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be held before the end of 1990 to formulate a long-term oil strategy, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Wednesday.

Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, in an interview with the daily Al Watan, urged non-OPEC oil producers to play a "positive role" by cooperating with OPEC countries in their endeavours to shore up oil prices.

He said Iraq's oil plans for 1989 include reexport of crude oil through Gulf outlets — a process halted by the eight-year war with Iran; the building of new facilities for exporting oil derivatives via the Gulf and the construction of a refinery with a capacity of 150,000 barrels a day.

The minister said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has positively reacted to the summit proposal by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

"There is a clear agreement about the necessity for holding such a summit," Al Chalabi said.

Asked when he expects the summit to be convened, the Iraqi minister said: "opinions differ on this score. The suggested dates cover the fourth quarter of 1989 and 1990." He added that the issue would be taken up by an

OPEC ministerial committee meeting in Vienna later this month.

The Iraqi and Venezuelan presidents were "in full agreement that the summit should consider an oil strategy for the coming period irrespective of casual problems which currently plague the oil market," he said.

The strategy should lay down a criteria for oil production and suitable oil prices taking into account alternative energy sources and the dangers in the economies of oil producing countries, he said.

He reported "a positive development" on the oil market as a result of the latest OPEC agreement to slash the production ceiling to 18.5 million barrels a day. He said that as a result of the accord, OPEC's oil supply on the market fell by four million barrels a day, pushing prices up from about \$10 to \$16 a barrel.

"With the continued improvement of prices we hope that there will be a room in future for

raising the production ceiling," he said.

Al Chalabi expressed the belief that OPEC member states were adhering to individual production quotas fixed for each by the group. The production question will be considered by the ordinary OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna in June, he said.

He also labelled as "positive development" that non-OPEC producers have refrained from flooding the oil market with crude.

The Iraqi minister said that he was "very optimistic" that Egypt will regain its membership in OPEC's sister Arab grouping, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) when OAPEC's ministerial conference in May.

In an interview with Reuters, Algerian Oil Minister Saddek Boussena said Tuesday that with the help of non-OPEC oil producers OPEC would be able to

reach its \$18 a barrel target price before June.

"There is no reason why we cannot (reach the target price), none at all and before June," he noted.

But Boussena stressed the need for OPEC to reach some form of production agreement with the major non-OPEC oil-producing nations which he said now had the power to stabilise or destabilise the market.

"It is necessary they now take the responsibility to stabilise the market for the well-being of everybody," he said.

"Their (non-OPEC countries) contribution is important. In the future, the cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC is going to represent for OPEC a fundamental axis of its work. It is undeniable that in the future OPEC will have to take this into consideration," Boussena added.

He said it was not certain what form the cooperation would take

and said a date for a ministerial meeting between the two groups had not yet been agreed. But he added it was time for non-OPEC countries to take firm action.

"It is clear that the market is waiting for a concrete decision from non-OPEC. It is necessary in order to arrive as quickly as possible at \$18."

Non-OPEC technical experts met in London on Feb. 21 and agreed cuts in production that industry sources said could amount to about 200,000 barrels per day (b/d).

The cutback is likely to be offset by North Sea fields coming back on stream after a series of accidents last year. Experts say OPEC is also set to produce about one million b/d above demand in the second quarter of 1989.

The 40-year-old Boussena declined to be drawn on the problems likely to face OPEC in the coming months.

"It is too soon," he said, stressing November's OPEC agreement fixing total output at 18.5 million b/d from January had only come into operation a few weeks ago.

Iraq and Kuwait have suggested a higher ceiling be fixed at the next OPEC ministerial meeting in June.

Confirming Algeria was producing at its quota level of 695,000 b/d, Boussena said he would wait and see what happened to the overall ceiling before deciding whether to seek a quota increase.

Over 90 per cent of Algeria's foreign currency earnings come from exports of oil and gas. Industry sources say oil revenues fell in 1988 to between \$7 and \$8 billion from \$10 billion in 1987.

Boussena said his main task would be to increase all categories of hydrocarbon exports to provide the base for recovery in the Algerian economy.

Africans debate IMF, World Bank policies

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — Economists and finance officials from some 50 African nations opened talks aimed at assessing African economic reforms sponsored by Western financial institutions, organisers said Tuesday.

The conferees will seek a common African approach to often-controversial reform programmes recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, a spokesman for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said.

Bingu Wa Mutharika said the weeklong meeting of officials will be followed by a three-day conference of African finance ministers starting March 6.

Both gatherings are the first to be convened by the ECA to tackle the responses of various African nations to IMF and World Bank policies in a continent of 550 million people.

Mutharika said the meetings will attempt to work out what he described as a common set of alternatives to the orthodox economic policies of the IMF and World Bank.

Some 30 African governments are engaged in economic and development schemes recommended or funded by the Washington-based financial institutions.

Most African economies were hurt by the 1970s oil crisis and the collapse of world commodity prices for their exports and periodic droughts in the current decade. Those conditions made it difficult for them to honour their foreign debts, including IMF and World Bank loan repayments.

Mutharika, who is based at the ECA's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said the IMF and World Bank subsequently offered African governments economic salvage programmes to include import liberalisation, currency devaluations to increase export revenue and cuts in state health, housing, education and food subsidies.

But the measures took little account of political conditions in socialist-style economies or their impact on Africa's urban and rural poor, Mutharika said.

"Even the IMF and the bank are beginning to realise this," he added.

Among topics for discussion in Blantyre is a proposal for the setting up of an African Monetary Fund to encourage greater financial autonomy on the continent.

The ECA was established by the United Nations in 1958 as a think-tank for social and economic development in Africa. It also aimed to promote collective economic cooperation between African nations.

Israel resolves debts of communes

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's government and banks agreed Tuesday to reschedule the seven billion shekel (\$3.9 billion) debt of the kibbutz collective settlements, Finance Minister Shimon Peres said.

The accord means the socialist

collective farms and industrial enterprises which are part of Israel's foundation will not have to close.

"There was unanimity on the need to save a national institution," Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno said.

Under the plan, the commercial

banks agreed in principle to write off some one billion shekels (\$560 million) over six years while the government will repay 650 million shekels (\$360 million) of the debt to the banks.

Another three billion shekels (\$1.7 billion) will be rescheduled over 20 to 25 years at low interest rates.

Peres said it would take the form of a long-term bond issue at the interest rate for government borrowing — about 3.6 per cent above inflation.

Bruno said the actual interest rate would be higher, around 4.7 per cent in real terms.

The kibbutzim, which began as agrarian communities but many of which now have lucrative light

industries, agreed to sell off assets and cut costs to account for 500 million shekels (\$280 million) in debt.

The collectives ran up heavy debts during a period of hyperinflation in the early 1980s.

They are still the mainstay of Israeli agriculture, which accounts for 7.4 per cent of gross national product.

Bruno said the kibbutz movement still refused to close down settlements that were no longer economically viable, arguing the social cost was too high.

Commercial bankers said that as part of the accord, details of which remained to be finalised, financially troubled kibbutzim would have to accept bank supervision of their economic plans.

Arab fund grants Egypt \$120m loan

CAIRO (R) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) signed an agreement Wednesday granting Egypt a soft loan of 35 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$120 million) to build a power station.

The loan, repayable over 19 years after a grace period of six years and at an interest rate of three per cent, is the largest Egypt has received since its readmission to Arab funds last year.

Last June, the United Arab Emirates' fund for Arab Economic Development granted Egypt a soft loan of \$75 million for desert reclamation — the first

after a nine-year suspension because of Cairo's peace with Israel.

A spokesman for the Egyptian Ministry of International Economic Cooperation said the new loan will be used for to finance a power station in Damietta, 190 kilometres north of Cairo.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week visited the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait as part of his efforts to improve ties with Arab countries.

Egypt, which has an annual trade deficit of more than \$5 billion, has sought Arab help to improve its economy.

Losses increase by 61% at Chinese state plants

BEIJING (AP) — Losses in China's inefficiently run, state-owned industrial enterprises jumped by 26.6 per cent last year compared to 1987, the official China Daily has said.

The daily quoted Guo Zhishan, an official of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, as saying losses were particularly heavy in companies under direct control of the central government.

He said 25 per cent of central government-run plants lost money, up from 21 per cent in 1987, and the amount of their

losses rose 61 per cent. Enterprises run by local governments fared better, cutting losses by 0.5 per cent.

Guo said locally run enterprises did better because more had adopted the contract responsibility system which makes factory managers liable for losses and provides them benefits for profits.

The report did not give a figure for total losses, but the government last year paid an estimated 40 billion yuan (\$10.8 billion), about a sixth of the total budget, to subsidise state-run factories.

Tobacco giant gives up on smokeless cigarette

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina (R) — Cigarette giant R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. said Tuesday it was halting test marketing of its smokeless cigarette, ending a billion-dollar planned product launch that drew heated criticism from health groups but failed to arouse much response from smokers.

The Premier "smokeless" cigarette, designed to cut smoke released into the air and placate a growing anti-smoking movement, was introduced in October 1988 for test marketing in Arizona and eastern Missouri.

"While smokers are very interested in the concept, the current product has not achieved adequate consumer acceptance," the company said in a statement.

The plan to halt Premier was the first major marketing test for KKR, the new owner of R.J. Reynolds. The New York investment firm acquired RJR in a record \$25 billion buyout completed earlier in February.

A spokesman for Reynolds, the maker of Winston, Salem, Camel and other cigarette brands, said the decision to pull the plug on the testing was initiated by Reynolds's Tobacco Development Co. and approved by KKR.

The smokeless cigarette appeared with big fanfare in September 1987. Reynolds announced it as "a major alternative that expands the options for smoking" with an innovative

technology that reduces smoke by heating, rather than burning, tobacco.

Shares of RJR Nabisco Inc., surged as some analysts predicted the product would transform the smoking business.

But after the tests were halted, some called Premier a marketing blunder as big as the "New Coke" disaster, Coca Cola Co.'s costly effort to change its formula that was quickly abandoned when consumers rejected the switch.

Test-marketing was going badly, with consumers finding the new product unappealing and sales floundering, analysts said.

"It was a big expense that wasn't ever going to pay off," said one analyst.

An RJR spokesman said the company will continue to work on the product.

But the atmosphere for launching any similar smoking product is likely to be tainted by the organised opposition that met Premier. The product provoked strong objections from health groups who viewed it as an effort to make smoking more acceptable without addressing basic health concerns.

Smoking has been gradually declining in the United States due to the anti-smoking campaign. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, an outspoken critic of smoking, charges that the smokeless cigarette was "a drug delivery system" whose use should be regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

Brazil criticises World Bank and United States

SAO PAULO (Agencies) — Brazil, at odds with both the World Bank and the United States over environmental issues, has hit out at both as the international debate over the Amazon turns acrimonious.

President Jose Sarney, on his return Tuesday from Japan, said: "We are the ones who have to look after our own ecology. We can not admit in any way interference of any country in our internal affairs."

While in Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, Sarney met President Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Brazilian newspaper reports said the talks which touched on the destruction of the Amazon and its rain forest, became heated and Sarney rejected Baker's suggestions about debt-for-nature swaps, in which foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for projects that protect the environment.

Sarney told reporters in Brasilia that Brazil's relations with the United States "are not passing through a good period."

The president also criticised the World Bank, which has been holding back on a \$500 million loan to the power sector. Ecologists have been campaigning against this loan for fear it will help Brazil build dams in Amazonia.

"This year, if the World Bank does not approve Brazilian projects, we are going to have to pay \$1.7 billion (to the bank) while receiving only \$200 million," Sarney said. "This is an absolutely impossible situation."

The negotiations on the power loan reached an impasse after Brazil last year transferred responsibility for nuclear power to the state utility Eletrobras. The

bank is not convinced that the planned Angra III power station makes economic sense.

Under mounting criticism over the Amazon, the Brazilian government has been arguing that the developed nations are worse environmental offenders than Brazil.

"They are the worst plunderers. They discharge their wastes into the atmosphere, damaging the ozone layer, and they still stockpile nuclear arms which can destroy humanity two or three times over," said Sarney.

The president said he was surprised that Brazil was criticised abroad. He said the country has maintained "a position of love of nature."

Brazilian environmentalists have joined with their foreign colleagues in accusing the government of doing nothing to stop the destruction of the Amazon rain forests, being burned down by ranchers on an unprecedented scale.

The country's best-known environmentalist, charged last week that the government "had no credibility and accused Sarney of telling 'big lies' on environmental issues."

Meanwhile, Brazil's cost of living rose 3.6 per cent in February, despite a government-imposed freeze on wages and prices.

The government said Tuesday that the inflation rate, measured over an 11-day period in February, would reach an annual rate of 76.41 per cent if it continued at the same pace.

According to the Geography and Statistics Institute, the 1988 inflation was 933 per cent.

Oman to cut oil output

MUSCAT (AP) — Oil Minister Saeed Al Shanfari announced a five per cent cut in crude-oil production starting April 1, local dailies reported Wednesday.

The cut, reportedly ordered by Omani Sultan Qaboos, was a direct result of talks last month in London among oil producers outside OPEC, the announcement stated. Shanfari, according to the local newspaper reports, welcomed actions by other producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) to curb output in an attempt to bolster world oil prices. Oman's current oil output level is estimated at 600,000 barrels a day. Oil revenues are the backbone of the economy of the Gulf sultanate, and it has led efforts outside the 13-member group to curb output to arrest the oil price slides of the past three years. Production cuts in the last four months have brought oil price averages up from about \$10 per barrel to \$16.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 1, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.8	426.8
Pound Sterling	933.7	943.6	Dutch guilder	260.4	263.1
Deutschemark	294.0	297.0	Swedish crown	85.4	86.2
Swiss franc	344.8	348.2	Italian lira (for 100)	39.9	40.3
French franc	86.3	87.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	140.2	141.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7320/30	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1960/70	Canadian dollar
	1.8373/80	Deutschemark
	2.0740/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5695/5703	Swiss francs
	38.49/52	Belgian francs
	6.2525/75	French francs
	1353/1354	Italian lire
	127.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.3110/60	Swedish crowns
	6.7260/7310	Norwegian crowns
	7.1500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	386.00/386.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market maintained its strength by the close as overseas investors sought out local stocks to cash in on the weaker domestic currency. The All Ordinaries index rose 9.2 to 1,494.6.

TOKYO — Share prices closed easier but off lows in trade made cautious by interest rate jitters. Investors took profits and waited for West Germany's central bank interest rate decision. Nikkei fell 21.30 to 31,964.30.

HONG KONG — Share prices finished firmer on moderate turnover with sentiment nervous and lacking clear indications on market direction. The Hang Seng rose 24.39 to 3,037.07.

SINGAPORE — A mild rebound in selected stocks in the afternoon helped the market close on a mixed note after widespread falls at midday.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply across the board in active trading after the government announced a five per cent hike in excise levels, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Shares soared across the board in lively trade as investors rushed to take advantage of recent sharp falls. The DAX index ended off highs but up 18.59 points up on Tuesday at 1,307.25.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer across their board but below the day's highs as sales slackened. The all-share Swiss performance index added 4.2 points to 959.8.

PARIS — Prices shed early gains by midday, edging lower on nervousness that West German rates may soon rise. The 50-share price indicator was down 0.44 per cent by 1130 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were below afternoon highs which were touched on relief that U.K. January trade data did not result in a hike in 13 per cent British base rates. By 1534 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 19.4 points to 2,021.8.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed broad gains as investors saw steady interest rates ahead. Arbitrage buying lifted stocks early on. The Dow 30 was up eight at 2,271.

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PURCHASE OF 40 PHOSPHATE HOPPER WAGONS
TENDER NO. 1/1989

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for supply and delivery of phosphate hopper wagons as per the following:

- Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of 40 hopper wagons and spares as described in the specifications and according to the general conditions mentioned in the tender documents.
- Tender documents can be purchased on payment of a non-refundable sum of JD 160, from A.R.C. representative in our liaison office at Amman Station or from Ma'an offices of A.R.C.
- The last date for submission of offers is 12.00 O'clock Wednesday 3.5.1989. The tenders are required to be submitted in a large sealed envelope, on which shall be written clearly the name and the number of the tender, and which should contain two sealed envelopes, one in respect of the technical offer and the other in respect of the financial offer. Sealed tenders are to be handed over to the Chief Clerk, A.R.C. head office at Ma'an.

Mardi Qatamlin
Director General

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

North Stars 4, Capitals 3

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — Dino Ciccarelli scored a power-play goal with 16 seconds left in regulation time, as the Minnesota North Stars scored twice in the final minute to beat the Washington Capitals 4-3 Tuesday night for their first victory in the capital centre in more than six years.

Ajax offered \$3 million for two players

THE HAGUE (R) — Ajax Amsterdam have been offered a total of three million dollars by French club Toulon for wingers John Van't Schip and Rob Witschge, a spokesman for the Dutch side said Tuesday. Spokesman David Endt said the French first division club had been considering Witschge for more than a year. "If the offer is very interesting Ajax may let him go," he said. But he said it was far less likely that Ajax would agree to sell Dutch International Van't Schip, whose contract with the Amsterdam club runs until 1992.

Graff extends 1989 record

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — Steffi Graff hurried past American Beth Herr in her opening match in the \$200,000-U.S. Women's hardcourt tennis championships Tuesday to extend her unbeaten record in 1989. The Grand Slam champion from West Germany took just 51 minutes to dispose of Herr 6-0, 6-1 but gave herself only a fair rating afterwards. "I think my play was all right," Graff, the world number one, said. "I really couldn't say that it was my best performance of the year because she was not that strong."

Ivanchuk maintains lead in Linares

LINARES, Spain (R) — Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union extended his lead in an international chess tournament Tuesday despite being held to a draw in his eighth round game. Ivanchuk, the only undefeated player remaining in the tournament, offered a draw after 19 moves against Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia. Ivanchuk had opened with a Queen's Gambit.

Arsenal held to draw by Millwall

LONDON (R) — Arsenal stretched their lead in the English first division to five points Tuesday but emerged with little credit from a goalless home draw against London rivals Millwall. They applied plenty of pressure but rarely threatened the Millwall goal. Third-placed Millwall were desperately unlucky in the 31st minute when skipper Les Briley's 18-metre volley into the net was ruled out because a team-mate had strayed offside. Tony Casciaro wasted two golden chances to sink the leaders in the first half, shooting straight at goalkeeper John Lukic in the opening minutes and then heading wide when unmarked.

Lewis edges out Simon in 60 metres

SEVILLE (R) — Olympic 100 metres champion Carl Lewis recovered from a bad start to beat Cuba's Andres Simon in a photo-finish to the 60 metres at an international indoor meeting Tuesday. The Cuban was so certain he had won that he ran a lap of honour before learning the American had pipped him.

Christie pulls out

LONDON (AP) — Linford Christie, Britain's 100-metre Olympic silver medalist, Tuesday pulled out of this week's world indoor track championships in Budapest, still troubled by a foot injury.

Europe's top sprinter was due to fly out with the rest of the British team Wednesday but the injury, which forced him out of the European indoor championships in the Netherlands two weeks ago, has not responded to treatment.

"There's no point in running if I'm not 100 per cent fit," Christie said.

Christie, the fastest man in the world at 60 metres this year and second fastest at 200 metres, was favourite for the gold medal in their shorter distance at the world indoor event starting Friday. But he was now written off the rest of his indoor season and plans to concentrate on getting fit for his summer campaign.

Christie, who strained his left foot the day before he was due to launch his European indoor challenge in the Hague, has been receiving intensive treatment for the injury over the past week and a half.

But only last week he was hobbling around on crutches and is still unable to put any pressure on the foot.

In Christie's absence, British selectors drafted in former European indoor champion Mike McFarlane for Budapest. He will join European bronze medalist Michael Rosswess in the short sprint.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a day that can be action-packed. Variety is the spice of life and opportunities can arise and turn to your gain. Take advantage of a wide range of practical ideas and suggestions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Draw up a new plan of action toward improving your bank balance. You are in a seasonal mood and can connect with romantic excitement.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Emotions can snap if an inflexible attitude is maintained. Adapt to changing conditions and avoid any rigid stand that does not work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Decrease anxiety over budget demands by following a planned budget. Stabilize and organize money systems that are realistic.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are victorious when dedicated to long-term goals. Children interest you and bring joy to your day.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Unexpected events will start your day glowing with excitement. Postpone a social meeting if another offer is to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) This day can have business advantages.

Your insight into money matters is keen, and strategic moves can fill the bank account.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This can turn out to be a great day right from the start. Do your own thing when others around you are

hounded out and negative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some early day conflicts occur, but level off before the evening. Promises made by others today should be taken with a grain of salt.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You will be on the go most of the day. Interesting ideas come that can be applied to a personal project. Pets need to be checked by a vet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The focus today is on money and accompanying financial matters. Rebuilding by others can get you in a negative mood, if you let it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Social affairs are on the upswing. You are back to the driver's seat when you accidentally meet an old friend or flame.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The tempo is picking up so that some financial problems can soon be solved. It is a good time to experiment with new social activities.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1989

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Time is to the beauty of nature, and start projects that have a long-term interest. Develop ideas that produce more money in the future.

Business cycles are favorable and interesting.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) When you get the loneliness, arrange to reunite with old friends you have not been in touch with. Focus on holding your spending in check.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your aggressive and expansive state of mind can work wonders for you. Be prepared for someone who harbors ill will.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be loyal to people you have trusted for a long time. Your sensual nature is at a peak. Romance could blossom in your love life.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Relationships seem fascinating. You may feel that more is given than received. Keep busy and avoid acting on negative feelings.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Face the need to adjust your lifestyle. Someone close to you appears to be withdrawing. Make positive motions and avoid being discouraged.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Sunny companionship will brighten the day. A short journey could be rewarding. The focus is on people who are different and exciting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Friends are supportive and helpful. You are attractive and sur-

rounded by beautiful companions. Pleasant surprises are in store.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your loyalty to your work is admirable. Nerves can get jangled today. Be patient with those who are slower than you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A change of pace might help you out of a rut. Make some plans to enter into a favorite pastime. Young people attract you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Patience will go a long way today. Good things are happening in your favor. A journey with a working companion will be enjoyed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be smart, and don't offend someone you may need at a later time. Good fortune comes in handling routine and home schedules.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You feel the pressure of having too much to do and too little time to do it. Items will run more smoothly if you share more time with family.

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Nance and Ron Harper each scored 14 points in the second half Tuesday night and Cleveland outscored Detroit 34-17 at the free-throw line to win a meeting of this season's most successful teams, 115-99.

Cleveland, 42-12, won its fifth straight and extended a team record with its 21st straight victory at home. Detroit, 36-16, had a three-game winning streak stopped and fell five games behind the Cavaliers in the central division.

Harper finished with 26 points, Brad Daugherty 20 and Nance 18. Isiah Thomas and Mark Aguirre had 28 each for Detroit, which had four players with five fouls at the end.

Detroit was without forward John Salley, who was placed on the injured list Tuesday with a broken bone in his left ankle. Salley missed his third straight game and will be out three weeks.

Mavericks 111, Heat 110

Rolando Blackman scored Dallas' final seven points, including a three-point play with three seconds left in overtime.

Celtics 112, Hornets 87

Reggie Lents and Kevin McHale scored all of Boston's points in the first period, then the Celtics used a 26-4 tear in the second quarter in the rout.

Bulls 121, Spurs 102

Michael Jordan scored 24 points as the Bulls handed San Antonio its 12th consecutive loss. The Spurs were 1-12 in February, the worst month in their 16-year history. They are 13-42, assuring them of their fourth consecutive losing season.

Pacers 108, Sonics 106

Detlef Schrempf's basket with four seconds remaining capped a 9-2 run in the final two minutes as the Pacers won just their second road game. Indiana's only other road win was 127-108 at Boston on Jan. 11. The Pacers had lost 11 straight road games.

76ers 123, Clippers 105

Rookie Hershey Hawkins scored a season-high 32 points and Charles Barkley added 23 as the 76ers dealt the Clippers their 10th straight defeat.

Trail Blazers 139, Suns 134

Terry Porter scored a season-high 34 points and Jerome Kersey had 21 of his 31 points in the second half. Clyde Drexler added 28 points and 11 rebounds but missed getting his third consecutive triple-double by having nine assists.

U.K. clubs reapply to Europe

GENEVA (AP) — England's soccer federation has formally asked for readmission of the island's clubs into European Championships' Cup final between Liverpool and Italian club Juventus in May 1985.

A spokesman for the Union of European Football Associations said its executive committee will consider the request at an April 11-12 meeting on the Portuguese island Madeira.

England's Football Association, in appealing to European soccer's governing body for lifting the four-year-old ban, put itself at odds with the British government.

Apparently wary of possible violence by English fans sporting the continent, Britain's sports minister declined to back the FA's fresh bid for a quick return of English clubs, despite wide support among European soccer officials.

UEFA received a letter from the FA Monday asking for the readmission of its clubs in the 1989-90 season of European competition, said the spokesman, Rudolph Rothenbushler.

He declined to comment on the FA's arguments and on the request's chances of success.

UEFA imposed the open-ended ban after 39 people were

killed in a rampage by English fans at Heysel stadium in Brussels, Belgium, before a European Champions' Cup final between Liverpool and Italian club Juventus in May 1985.

UEFA rejected English efforts to gain readmission in 1986 and 1987 to the European Champions' Cup, Cup of Cupwinners and UEFA Cup club tournaments.

Last summer, the FA withdrew an application to return in the current season after street fighting between English fans and West German and Dutch supporters during the European soccer championships in West Germany.

On Tuesday, British sports minister Colin Moynihan said a return of English clubs currently is "inconceivable" because "no steps have been taken since the appalling scenes of last June."

"UEFA runs these competitions, but we would caution them," he told Britain's independent television news. "We would very much like to see English clubs back in, but it's going to take time."

He said British authorities will first have to ensure that convicted hooligans are barred from travelling overseas and that a national membership system is intro-

duced.

English soccer fears that exclusion from the club tournaments is harming progress of the sport in the country where it was born some 100 years ago, a fact brought home by the national squad's weak showing at the European championships.

FA officials point to security measures taken since the ban and note that soccer fan violence has also flared on the continent.

Many continental club officials favour a return of English clubs, who remain among Europe's most attractive opponents.

Edgar Obertuerfer, General Secretary of the Swiss Football Association, said that while serving as match observer for UEFA, "Real Madrid, Juventus and other big clubs have always asked me to work for bringing the English clubs back in."

"Their absence is a great loss to European soccer," he told the Associated Press by telephone from Bern.

Obertuerfer, a member of UEFA's disciplinary committee, which rules on fan violence incidents, said any readmission of English clubs is certain to be tied to future good fan behaviour.

Alain Prost: set to take his revenge

SESTRIERE, Italy (AP) — Alain Prost, the winningest Formula-one driver ever, has two absolute certainties about the forthcoming racing season.

The 34-year-old Frenchman is sure that he will be driving for the best team in the world Formula-one championship and that his toughest rival for the 1989 drivers title will again be his McLaren-Honda teammate, Ayrton Senna.

"It's easy to predict another two-way duel with Senna because I am convinced that McLaren is going to prevail also in the war between normally aspirated engines," said Prost at a yearly press conference together of Formula-one racers.

The British-based McLaren team, powered by Japanese-made turbocharged Honda engines, dominated the 1988 championship, winning 15 of 16 Grand Prix races.

Several racing experts and drivers gathered here conceded that the high technology and massive Formula-one investments by the Japanese maker, combined with the ability of British designers, seems certain to have produced another winning model for the next championship, opening in Brazil on March 26.

Honda made a brand new normally aspirated engine for the new racing season because all Formula-one teams will have to use that type of motor this year. The powerful turbocharged engines were phased out following the last Grand Prix of 1988, in Australia.

A two horse race? Prost, who set a record of 35 Grand Prix wins last year by taking seven races, finished

second to this Brazilian teammate Senna in the championship standings — 90 to 87 points.

Prost, who also placed runner-up in seven Grand Prix races, likes to emphasize that he actually piled up more points than Senna — 105 to 94 considering results from all races. Prost succumbed to new rules which count the best placings of each driver in only 11 events.

Senna won his first world drivers title capitalizing on eight victories and three second places. "Ayrton had good luck on his side in the most critical moments. Without luck you can hardly win a world title. However, everything is forgotten by now. I am calm, relaxed but ready for another battle, which this time I hope to win," said Prost.

Prost proclaimed he had a realistic chance to capture his third world title this year "because I wouldn't start another season without the prospect of victory." He was a two-time world champion in 1985 and 1986. He was succeeded by Brazilian Nelson Piquet in 1987 and by Senna last year.

The diminutive driver, who has competed in 137 Grand Prix races so far, stressed that his relations with Senna and with McLaren and Honda officials are extremely good.

The Frenchman added, however, that he wants to do well in the very first race of the season in Brazil "to straighten things out from the very beginning." He did not elaborate.

"I am driving for the strongest team in Formula-one and this is a guarantee for improving my record of 35 wins," he said.

Eddie 'the Eagle' has his wings clipped

LONDON (AP) — Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, one of sports' most famous losers, has been barred from competing in world cup ski jumping events at least through the end of the current season.

The British Ski Federation said Tuesday it had decided to keep the Cheltenham, England, plasterer on lower-level events for the time being. Edwards is expected to return to action soon after recovering from a shoulder injury suffered in training last December.

"Although Eddie is again fit to jump — and I am delighted to hear the good news — it would be inappropriate for him to launch straight into these high level World Cup events," said John Leaning, the federation's Nordic competition director. "We consider it more logical and sensible for him to ease back into the lower level 70-metre European events, which take place in early March."

"Even before Eddie was injured, we had severe reservations about entering him for any more events at this level because of the paucity of his results."

Edwards became a celebrity a year ago as he finished last in both the 70- and 90-metre jumps at the Winter Olympics in Calgary. His jumping style was dubbed "ski dropping" by one reporter but his self-deprecating humour and willingness to give one of the world's most dangerous sports a try endeared him to fans.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A5 ♠72 ♠A87 ♠J109542
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two spades. What do you respond?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q7632 ♠AK1076 ♠7 ♠83
Your right-hand opponent opens one club. What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K762 ♠5 ♠AJ82 ♠J105
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠762 ♠J103 ♠KQ452
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠762 ♠J103 ♠KQ452
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J ♠AJ3 ♠AQ964 ♠A987
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Stanley still makes my heart sing... but now it sings the blues."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRUMO

YOUIS

REDAIM

ATJECK

WHAT HE GOT WHEN HE BOUGHT THAT "STYLISH" RAINCOAT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING ROBIN TYRPHUS PYTHON

Answer: How unusually ended a sentence—WITH A "PROPOSITION"

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1 Anon corner

5 Shoe parts

10 Madrid Mrs.

13 War god

14 Frog talk

15 Muck

17 Blooming

20 Founded: abbr.

21 Gern

22 Slave or Woody

23 Boer

24 Kind of cross

25 Luminous element

29 Ireland at all

30 Fish sauce

31 Irish life opus

32 Wing

35 Blooming preacher?

40 Quary

41 Midday

42 Grammar

43 Br. guns

44 Like a drum

45 Very near

46 Well sound

49 Large

51 Comparative word

52 Fitting

53 Blooming

54 Poet

55 Elbow

56 At large

57 Ripper

58 Leather: abbr.

59 WWI battle site

64 Storm

DOWN

1 Gull

2 Age

3 Deported

4 Jet set

5 Lead at 400

6 Made a circle

7 Noley

8 Lobed organ

9 Firmament

10 Silvery fish

11 Moon valley

12 Van Gogh locale

16 Sert

18 Jacob's ab.

19 "Cat —" (see Poet)

20 Marvin (film)

23 Pile of hay

24 Certain performer

25 Cooked abbr.

26 Indian prince

27 Woolly word

28 Orlop

Troops move in to quell Caracas unrest

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The army moved to wipe out snipers in the Caracas Hills Wednesday after the government suspended civil rights and imposed a nationwide curfew to combat the worst violence in 31 years of rule.

Reports from authorities and independent sources indicated the death toll had surpassed 100 in two days of rioting and plunder touched off by protests over price increases imposed to meet the demands of international creditors. Police Tuesday estimated the death toll at about 50.

At least 800 have been injured, said the El Nacional newspaper, and at least nine cities were affected by violence. Authorities said thousands of people had been arrested.

President Carlos Andres Perez in a television address late Tuesday called the violence an "in-



Rioters set ablaze cars and more than 100 shops in six Venezuelan cities Monday in protests over food and gasoline price hikes.

credible tragedy" and said riots threatened the democratic process.

Among the constitutional rights Perez suspended indefinitely were those guaranteeing public assembly, limits on police searches and arrests, and freedom of expression. The last time that happened was 1966, when the

government ordered the army to take over the Central University of Caracas.

Gunfire was heard in the streets of this capital of four million people until past midnight. After a frenzy of rioting and looting, a tense calm fell over the city.

The curfew was in effect from 8

p.m. Tuesday (0000 GMT Wednesday) to 6 a.m. Wednesday (1000 GMT Wednesday) and will also be in effect 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) Wednesday until 6 a.m. (1000 GMT) Thursday.

Army patrols in Caracas patrolled the empty streets as the curfew took effect. The capital looked like a ghost town.

Cycle of Belgrade protests continues over ethnic conflict

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — About 4,000 Slavs from the troubled southern province of Kosovo came to the capital Wednesday to protest alleged persecution by the province's ethnic Albanian majority, the state Tanjug news agency said.

The flag-carrying, chanting Serbs and Montenegrins walked from the railroad station to the downtown parliament as Belgrade residents cheered them.

Taxi drivers, with large portraits of Serbian Communist Party chief Slobodan Milosevic on their cars, provided free transportation for the elderly.

Meanwhile, 500 ethnic Albanians in the Trepeza lead-zinc mine in Kosovo, continued their strike in the local canteen to protest Serbian plans to change some of the constitution's provisions in a bid to win greater control over the province.

On Monday, some 1,300 ethnic Albanian miners ended an eight-day sit-in, after forcing the resignation of three Kosovo party leaders whom they consider to be pro-Serbian.

Calm prevailed in the province's capital of Pristina Wednesday morning following the introduction of emergency measures Monday, including an increased presence of military vehicles and soldiers in the area, Tanjug said.

The outbreak of protests and escalating ethnic nationalism appeared to pose the greatest threat to communist Yugoslavia

unity since the death of its founder, Josip Broz Tito, in 1980.

Yugoslavia is a loose federation of six republics and two autonomous provinces.

Mounting economic problems in recent years have been accompanied by a resurgence of historic ethnic rivalries. Yugoslavia's 23 million citizens belong to a number of different nationalities.

Serbs who support Milosevic believe ethnic Albanians in Kosovo want to secede from Yugoslavia and unite with neighbouring Albania. They also allege that the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo is suppressing the Slav minority there.

Both Croatia and Slovenia, Yugoslavia's most liberal and economically advanced republics, support the Kosovo Albanians' demands for guarantees of more autonomy for the province.

But in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, 2,000 students lent support to the ambitious Milosevic in his drive to get more control over Kosovo. Thousands of workers in Macedonia also sided with Serbia in more protests Wednesday and sent messages of support to the Belgrade students, saying "Sarajevo is with you" and "Slovenia is lying," Tanjug said.

Milosevic has vowed to arrest the organisers of protests that erupted at the end of a pro-Serbian rally Tuesday night in Belgrade that drew an estimated 500,000 people.

"Those who have manipulated with people shall be punished and arrested. In behalf of the leadership of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, I guarantee you this," Milosevic told about 10,000 demonstrators who remained late Tuesday in front of the federal parliament.

The Belgrade demonstrators protested the forced resignation of the three party officials in Kosovo, one of two autonomous provinces within the Serbian republic in southern Yugoslavia, and chanted support for Milosevic.

Most of the crowds dispersed peacefully after rallying for nearly 24 hours in front of the federal parliament in Belgrade after Milosevic spoke to them. Those who remained sang songs and chanted anti-Albanian slogans.

Earlier Tuesday, federal President Raif Dizdarevic, in a move to placate the crowd, promised the country's leadership would "undertake all necessary measures" to keep unity.

Smaller demonstrations including tens of thousands of people were reported Tuesday in the republic of Montenegro and the province of Vojvodina in central Serbia and by the Slav minority in Kosovo.

COLUMN

Swiss chef bids for gastronomy title

NICE (R) — A South African-based chef who cooks for bankers is challenging three Frenchmen for the world's premier culinary prize, the Grand Prix Auguste Escoffier. Heinz Brunner, the Swiss-born chef at the First National Bank's restaurant in Johannesburg, is one of four finalists for the coveted title, to be awarded March 10. Only one foreigner, a Swiss chef, has out-classed France's cooks in the 37-year history of the prize, named after Auguste Escoffier, the creator of the Peach Melba dessert. Brunner, who has lived in South Africa for 10 years, is president of the South African Chefs Association, his office said. The finalists were chosen from candidates who submitted recipes for set dishes — a main course of duck garnished with vegetables and apples, and dessert with rice, fruit and orange-flavoured liquor.

King Arthur's table buried in Scotland

LONDON (R) — Scholars unravelling centuries of legend said Monday they believe they have found the area in Scotland where the round table of King Arthur — which actually was not a table but a hall — lies buried. Burke's Peerage, a leading authority on royal lineage, announced the discovery, saying the hoped-for unearthing of stones from the round hall would prove once and for all that Arthur's court was based in Scotland. According to Burke's publisher Harold Brooks-Baker, the round table of legend was in reality a "roonde" or rotunda — a circular hall used as a meeting place by Arthur and his knights. Brooks-Baker said two U.S. scholars working in cooperation with Burke's Peerage had traced the site near Stirling in central Scotland through extensive documentary research.

Woman jailed for threatening Fox

LOS ANGELES (R) — A woman accused of sending 5,000 threatening letters to actor Michael J. Fox was ordered held in jail Tuesday after prosecutors said she posed a risk to Fox and his pregnant wife, actress Tracy Pollan. Shipping clerk Tina Ledbetter, 26, who crunched on the courtroom floor to hide from photographers, had been free on bail of \$50,000. She pleaded not guilty to five charges of making threats. If convicted, she could be sentenced to up to four years in prison. The letters, addressed to Fox, star of films such as "Back to the Future" and the television series "Family Ties," began arriving at Paramount Studios in February, 1988, according to deputy district attorney Norm Shapiro. Some of the letters, signed "your number one fan," threatened the lives of Fox, Pollan and their unborn child, Shapiro said.

'My name made me do it'

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Adolf Hitler Clark, a teenager who said he turned to crime because of his name, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for a drug murder. Clark, 18, whose birth certificate shows his middle name is actually Hilbert, is trying to change his ways that made him familiar to law enforcement officials since 1980, defense attorney Bill White said at sentencing Monday. Clark pleaded guilty to murder in November. He was one of two men who shot Terry Lamar Combs, 35, Aug. 2 as he negotiated to buy crack. In 1987, Clark told the Florida Times-Union that when he learned about Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, "I decided people expected me to live up to his name." He began skipping school and advanced to theft, which landed him in prison by the age of 16. Clark's father, Theodore Clark, said he gave his son the name Hitler because it was famous.

Cuomo to buy plant for \$1

ALBANY, New York (AP) — Governor Mario Cuomo signed a new agreement to buy the \$5.4 billion Shoreham nuclear plant for \$1 and close it permanently, but some opponents were skeptical. Under the agreement, the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) will sell the debt-ridden, unused plant to the state, which will dismantle it. The plant, which has been subject to repeated licensing battles since its completion in 1985, had come close to bankruptcy the last year, which was killed by state legislators, Cuomo predicted this deal, announced Tuesday, would succeed because it largely bypasses the legislature.

More doubt cast on Hess suicide

LONDON (AP) — A nurse who tended Rudolf Hess in his last days and a doctor who performed an autopsy on his body cast further doubts that the 93-year-old former top Nazi committed suicide, a television programme said Tuesday.

Tunisian-born nurse Abdulrahman Melaoui said Hess was too weak to tie his shoes or stand unaided, much less hang himself with an extension cord in a garden hut at Berlin's Spandau prison Aug. 17, 1987.

He also said the presence of two guards dressed in U.S. military uniforms near Hess' body has never been explained. At the time of Hess' death, it was the Americans' turn to man the prison, the programme noted.

Dr. Wolfgang Spann said Hess had strangulation marks on his neck, which had not been

mentioned in the official autopsy that concluded that he committed suicide by hanging himself.

Hess' son, Wolf Ruediger Hess, also reiterated on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) programme Newsnight his belief that his father was murdered on the order of his captors, the allied victors of the United States, France, Britain and the Soviet Union.

Hess, who was deputy of Adolf Hitler, was captured after flying to Scotland in 1941 in a self-proclaimed bid to end World War II.

Recalling the events surrounding Hess' death, Melaoui said: "I had the feeling they didn't want me to know too much about what had happened."

Melaoui, who said he nursed Hess night and day for

the last five years of his life, said he was called to his patient Aug. 17 but was kept waiting by various guards for more than 40 minutes.

When he was finally allowed to get near Hess, he was dead, the nurse said. The BBC said Melaoui had never spoken out about his doubts before.

When Melaoui entered the garden hut, he said he noticed that the extension cable which officials said was used in the suicide had not been moved. He said the body was also "quite a distance away" from the window where he was supposed to have hung.

"On that day everything was upside down as if a wrestling match had taken place... I was very angry and I became convinced that something wasn't normal," he said through an interpreter.

"Hess couldn't tie his shoelaces, let alone lift his hands to kill himself," Melaoui said, explaining he suffered from arthritis.

Spann, a forensic scientist interviewed on the Newsnight programme, was called in by Hess' family to perform a second autopsy after the first concluded he had hung himself. Spann said he photographed marks on Hess' neck which he said "proves that a strangulation device must have been applied."

He said he was astonished that the first examination did not mention the marks.

"When I get a body with these findings I say to the police 'proceed with caution. You must investigate further. It is possible there is a third hand at the centre of this'," Spann told BBC.

Salvador military declares ceasefire

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The Salvadoran military Tuesday called a unilateral ceasefire in the country's nine-year-old civil war, removing a major obstacle to peace talks with leftist guerrillas.

The armed forces, seizing the initiative in a five-week flurry of proposals and counter-proposals to achieve peace, said they would cease offensive actions at midnight Tuesday until June 1, when President Jose Napoleon Duarte is due to step down.

It called on the guerrillas of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to reciprocate "to comply with the Salvadoran people's desire for peace."

The guerrillas, replying earlier Tuesday to an offer from Duarte for peace talks, said both sides must agree to a ceasefire if the meeting was to take place. They proposed the Vatican mission or archbishop's residence in San Salvador this weekend, not Guatemala City as Duarte proposed.

Although the military's declaration for a ceasefire removed a major block to the talks, other FMLN demands for inclusion on the agenda could be difficult for the U.S.-backed government and military to meet.

These include discussion on a reduction of the 56,000 strong military to its pre-war level of 12,000 men and prosecution of officers and soldiers for the human rights violations that have characterised a war in which as many as half the 70,000 dead have been civilians.

The FMLN rejected Duarte's suggestion that presidential elections be postponed from March 19 to April 30.

The repeated demand made in their original overture that elections should be postponed until Sept. 15 to allow its supporters time to organise and campaign.

The FMLN, opening the door to a negotiated solution to Central America's most bitter conflict, had offered to respect the election result if they are satisfied by the conditions.

Duarte's agenda, the FMLN said Tuesday, showed "his constant ambition to obtain our surrender, which has been demonstrated to be unreal, illogical and impossible."



A protester is arrested at the U.S. embassy in Seoul by riot police during an anti-American demonstration on the eve of a visit to South Korea by U.S. President George Bush.

Seoul police block border talks

NAEYU, South Korea (AP) — Riot police Wednesday blocked dissident leaders who tried to reach the North Korean border for talks with communist officials on reuniting the divided Korean peninsula.

Lines of riot police with shields blocked the main highway from Seoul when the dissidents' bus reached the Naeyu checkpoint, about 20 kilometres from the border.

Troopers with shields immediately surrounded the bus to stop dissidents getting off. Angry dissident leaders leaned out of windows, shouting at police to let them proceed.

The United National Democratic Movement of Korea sent delegates to try and reach the Panmunjom border truce site to hold talks with North Korean officials on reuniting the peninsula that has been divided since 1945.

The South Korean government warned Tuesday that the dissidents would not be allowed to meet with North Korean officials, saying any contact with the North should be handled solely by the government.

North Korea announced earlier that it would send delegates to meet the South Korean dissidents at Panmunjom, a restricted area inside the demilitarised zone that separates the two Koreas.

Even Popeye is becoming more 'liberated'

By Anne Senior
Reuter

NEW YORK — Popeye the sailorman, that pipe-smoking, spinach-eating fighter of bulies, is softening his image in the face of modern feminism.

The cartoon hero, who celebrates his 60th birthday this year, has captivated generations of children with his gruff sailor's charm.

Millions around the world have followed his adventures with the willowy beauty Olive Oyl, and his feud with black-bearded Brutus, or Bluto in some versions.

Over the years Popeye has become less violent and more caring. And the tattooed hero could shed still more of his macho image as his corporate guardians try to strengthen his appeal to today's audience.

King Features Syndicate, the New York-based entertainment firm owning the rights to

the character, says that even Popeye, with his famous catchphrase "I yam what I yam," must change with the times.

Cathy Titus, director of international licensing at King Features, said the company was concerned about aspects of his character that could be considered brutal or sexist — such as his frequent fist fights and his rather proprietorial attitude towards women.

"There are things we do want to change," she told Reuters. "We see him becoming a more 'liberated' man."

Titus gave no clue to future story lines but said Popeye would continue to evolve in his attitudes toward women.

When the sailor first started out in show business, he was no fan of women. "Like a true sailor, he thought having women on his boat was bad luck," said Titus.

Olive Oyl, meanwhile, was portrayed as a dotty flirt, liable

to stray into danger, and so fickle she could fall prey to another man's attentions whenever Popeye turned his back.

But in one current version of the television cartoon now running in the United States, Olive has become a modern woman.

In "Popeye Son: A New Generation," Popeye has given up sailing and smoking and Olive runs an aerobics business. In the show the retired sailor is more of a family man and less of a fist-swinger.

But in the mainstream cartoon, Popeye has not lost his fiery spark. "He represents the little man. He may not always be right but he fights for what he believes in," said long-time Popeye cartoonist Bud Sagendorf, summing up the sailor's appeal.

To celebrate Popeye's 60th birthday, King Features is

bringing out a special Popeye watch.

The hero recently had a party at New York toy shop and in April is to be feted by the Boy Scouts of America at their official Scout show here.

Meanwhile back in the cartoon, Popeye continues his long-term courtship of Olive, who for all her flaws is one of the most appealing female characters in the story's history.

Others include the sea hag, an old witch Alice the goon, a hairy monster and various unidentified mermaids.

But to be fair, the menfolk are something of a miserable bunch too, either lumbering pugilists like Jabbo or ineffectual types like Professor Holokus Folks.

Olive, by comparison, is more complex.

"Olive can get herself out of trouble, but she enjoys letting

United States should have consulted with China first.

The latest Chinese statement used even stronger language, saying the United States "bypassed normal channels" in sending the invitation.

"From the very beginning, the Chinese side has repeatedly made solemn and just representations to the U.S. side and the U.S. side expressed its willingness to seek ways to solve the problem," the statement said. "We are surprised at the irresponsible remarks (the United States) has made now and express our deep regret."

The U.S. embassy has refused to confirm that it knew ahead of time the Chinese were angry over the invitation, and has insisted it was surprised by the police action against Fang.

Bush told the Chinese before leaving Peking Monday that he regretted the police action and U.S. Ambassador Winston Lord reiterated the message in a later

meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhen.

Fang, 53, China's best-known dissident, has openly called Marxism a failure and says senior leader Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms will not succeed without guarantees of basic rights such as freedom of thought and speech.

In Washington, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush's invitation to Fang and several other government critics who did attend the banquet was intended to make a human rights statement.

"China today is saying the United States is to blame for the diplomatic row," he said. "...which is true, ...which is to say that the president invited dissidents to this banquet for a reason."

Fang said Monday he believes the United States follows a "double standard" in human rights, criticising the Soviet Union publicly but not China.

friend Wimpy and arch-enemy Brutus.

"Their fight is a classic confrontation of good against evil," Titus said. Popeye, transformed into a strongman by a can of spinach, becomes Olive's protector and the thwarted of Brutus's evil schemes.

Sagendorf says that from 1931 to 1936 the spinach industry credited Popeye with increasing U.S. consumption of their product by 33 per cent.

Popeye became a champion of various products as well as of the downtrodden. His famous face has been used to sell everything from fried chicken to cars and computer games.

In one of his more glamorous assignments this year, Popeye welcomed Britain's Princess Diana when she visited a toy exhibition in New York. On that occasion, Olive stuck right by her sailor's side.